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THE HARRY KEWELL
TRAINING DIARIES

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*There's
something
about
Harry*

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SOCCER WEEKLY

AUSSIE & BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY

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HUGE ROUND OF GAMES TONIGHT JANUARY 26

Happy Australia Day. And for the ardent Aussie supporter of the World Game there is a full round of matches. See page 11 for details of games.

The pick is in Sydney, where Northern Spirit will take on Perth Glory at North Sydney Oval, kick-off is 7.30. They are expecting 20,000 fans to the cauldron, so get there early for a beauty of a game.

Want to win \$10,000? Of course you do. Soccer Weekly is not giving it away, but

South Melbourne, the champions of this fine nation, is.

The savvy marketing department at Lakeside invites all fans to come down to their home games for the rest of the season for your chance to win. The promotion is tied in with Strathfield and is called the 'Strathfield \$10,000 kick and win competition'.

Apparently all you do is try to score a goal through a hole, but you have to be chosen and there are only five lucky kickers. Sounds great.



Northern Spirit's fantastic travelling fans at Sydney Olympic on the weekend.



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Speaking of great, Gippsland Falcons have just signed a footwear sponsorship deal with Golsport, a part of the Valsport company from Italy.

Golsport will kit the Falcons out with a boot deal that sees the Gippy lads wearing the Autografo Black, which is apparently worn by Chelsea's Roberto Di Matteo.

Manny Gotis, Falcons' rugged defender said that the club is very excited about this deal and looks forward to a long association with Golsport.

Winners! Yes it's time to announce the winners of our Damien Lovelock Soccer book promotion. Our barrel girl was the lovely Carmen Miranda from the Four Diegos, and she picked out the following winners who answered correctly that the 1982 World Cup was held in Spain:

1: Rory McCormick, Calwell, ACT

2: Nector Kougelis, Harris Park, NSW

3: Mark Pringle, Braddon, ACT

4: G. Gronthos, Daw Park, Adelaide.

Enjoy and keep reading for more details of great promotions where you can win fantastic Soccer prizes just for reading Soccer Weekly. All prizes sent January 27 from Sydney.

And remember, coming soon, the one and only Ned Zelic together with the Four Diegos.

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SIDELINE*

VIC PREMIER LEAGUE SPECIAL

ALTONA EAST

1999 coach: Peter Ollerton
Home ground: Paisley Park, Altona North
Last season: Runners-up, First Division
Lost: none
May lose: Peter Kakos (Port Melbourne Sharks)
Gained: Lino Grech (Doncaster Rovers), Mile Medjedovic (Carlton).

Altona East, like South Dandenong and Westvale, have risen quickly up the divisions to gain a place amongst Victoria's elite. Now that they're in the Premier League, they intend to make the most of it.

"We're not going to be in the league just to survive," said club president George Krepis. "Our plans are to give this league a shake. Financially, we're not too far behind the likes of Bulleen and Green Gully, but strengthening the squad has been difficult."

Krepis attributes this to the club jumping the divisions in recent years.

"Players we've spoken to have said things like 'Altona East, who are you?', they just don't know who the club are."

"We've got a talented squad here, if we can get a quality striker and defender we'll be a good side."

Altona seem certain to lose last year's leading scorer, Peter Kakos, to Port Melbourne. Although the matter is going to a tribunal, Altona are resigned to losing him to their Premier League rivals.

ALTONA MAGIC

1999 coach: Chris Taylor
Home ground: Paisley Park, Altona North
Last season: Second (knocked out in Preliminary Final)
Lost: Savva Ruzmir (Bulleen Inter Kings), Dean Fak (Port Melbourne Sharks), Sash Becvinovski (Gippsland Falcons), Vasko Trpcovski (Perth Glory), Nick Georgopoulos (knee — out for season), Robert Runje (South Dandenong), Daniel Vasilevski (AIS), John Cvetanovski (AIS), Stephen Mikelic (AIS).
Gained: Craig Ashton (North Shore, NZ).

Victorian soccer may see the end of an era this season. Altona Magic, once the most feared side in the Premier League and who won three championships in a row, have been severely depleted in the off-season, losing some important players and their coach.

Ian Dobson — the man who took them to two of those championships — has left to take the Green Gully Cavaliers job.

His replacement Chris Taylor comes after spending half a year out of coaching after being sacked by Green Gully last season.

Taylor has a lot of work to do if he is ensure that Altona are, as they have been in recent years, genuine championship contenders.

"It's going to be difficult. You can't lose the quality and amount of players that we have and expect things to be the same," said Taylor.

All up, the Magic have lost nine players from last year's squad. Perennial leading scorer, Sash Becvinovski, has joined Ericsson Cup strugglers Gippsland Falcons and Dean Fak and Savva Ruzmir, two of the club's key players have left to join Port Melbourne and Bulleen respectively.

Only Craig Ashton, a New Zealander, has been signed but the Magic are awaiting the arrival of three players from Macedonia, who are expected to come within the next few weeks.

Despite the apparent problems the Magic may have, Taylor is confident of his side putting up a good fight.

"We'll be competitive, we'll be able to match it with the likes of Bulleen and Green Gully."

BENTLEIGH GREENS

1999 coach: Takis Svigos
Home ground: Kingston Heath Reserve, Cheltenham
Last season: 9th
Lost: Alex Moreira (Carlton), Nick Van Egmond (South Dandenong).

Gained: George Lenetis (Heidelberg United), David Grella (Springvale City), George Tsianakas (Kingston City).

Bentleigh Greens have turned to a coach with a noted record in the Premier League to take them out of the doldrums of last year's disappointing efforts.

Takis Svigos took the coaching job at Bentleigh Greens after guiding Altona East to the Premier League. He inherits a side who always played good football but were very inconsistent.

As well as coach Harry Chalkidis leaving, a couple of very good players have also gone. Nick van Egmond is a big loss for the Greens.

His goal-making and goalscoring prowess will be missed by a side who relied very much on his efforts over the last two seasons.

Bentleigh also lost Alex Moreira to Carlton but because he only arrived late in the season, his loss will not be felt as much.

George Lenetis (Heidelberg), David Grella (Springvale City) and George Tsianakas (Kingston City) are the Green's only signings to date but club president Tony Antoniou expected more to be made in the week running up to the start of the league.

Bentleigh's ground, Kingston Heath Reserve, has undergone a major facelift during the off-season, making it one of the best in the competition.

BULLEEN INTER KINGS

1999 coach: Gary Cole
Home ground: Veneto Club, Bulleen
Last season: Champions (finished third in regular season)
Gained: Savva Ruzmir (Altona Magic), Vlad Babic (Green Gully Cavaliers)

Last season's champions, Bulleen Inter Kings will be right up in the championship hunt once again this year.

One of the most successful Premier League sides in recent years, the Kings have a stable squad that has had minimal changes made during the off-season.

They may lose Zdravko Atanasovski to Green Gully, but have brought in the experienced Savva Ruzmir from Altona Magic and striker Vlad Babic from Green Gully.

Babic is likely to form the strike-force with last year's leading scorer, Danny Gnijdic.

Last season's skipper, Eric Hollingsworth, who is an athletics coach at the AIS, remains doubtful. He was commuting from Canberra every weekend last season, but it remains to be seen if he will do it again this season.

But should he not be able to it is unlikely to have any great effect on the Kings. Gnijdic was outstanding for Bulleen last season, as was most of the team.

FAWKNER BLUES

1999 coach: Ken Murphy
Home ground: Smith Reserve, Fawkner
Last season: 6th
Lost: Kamer Simsek (Preston Lions), Joe Biskic

eat well live well

Dwyght Tuffnell reports that Victoria's 'Eat Well Live Well' Premier League gets underway this weekend. This season sees big changes to the Premier League, with no finals series and four teams to be relegated in a move to a 12 team summer competition for the year 2000.

Things are looking up for the league too, with teams such as Bentleigh Greens and South Dandenong making vast redevelopments to their grounds.

Melbourne Raiders, who have changed their name from Thomastown Zebras, will move to a new ground which will have seating for 1000 fans.

ROUND 1 FIXTURES

Sunday January 31

Fawkner Blues v St Albans Saints — kick-off 6pm at Smith Reserve
 Bentleigh Greens v Altona Magic — kick-off 6pm at Kingston Heath Reserve
 Altona East v Sunshine Georgies — kick-off 6pm at Paisley Park
 Preston Lions v Springvale White Eagles — kick-off 6pm at Goodyear Stadium
 Port Melbourne Sharks v Westvale — kick-off 6pm at Anderson Reserve

Monday February 1

Green Gully Cavaliers v Melbourne Raiders — kick-off 8.15pm at Green Gully Reserve
 Bulleen Inter Kings v South Dandenong — kick-off 8.15pm at Veneto Club

Gained: not available

Fawkner Blues were a major surprise in the Premier League last season. After being in the top five for most of the year, they fell apart at a crucial stage and slipped out of the finals race after a horror string of results.

Some have pinpointed it to the time when the Blues brought in a couple of loan players from the NSL and disrupted the rhythm the team had going at that stage.

Last year's coach, Ken Murphy, hasn't made any dramatic changes to the squad that last season performed beyond most expectations.

One player they are definitely going to miss is Joe Biskic. Biskic, recently appointed coach of Melbourne Knights, was simply in a different class for the Blues last season where, for a man approaching 40, seemed too good for the rest of the league.

His partner in the Blues' midfield, Ivan Duzel, was also excellent if not a little ill-disciplined at times.

Santo Emmanuele also played a big part in Fawkner's good year.

GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS

1999 coach: Ian Dobson
Home ground: Green Gully Reserve, Kellor
Last season: Fourth (knocked out in Minor Semi-Final)
Lost: Vlad Babic (Bulleen Inter Kings), Adrian Cuzzupe (South Melbourne), Pece Stojceviski (Preston Lions), John Kindtner (Sunshine Georgies), Cameron Brown (Westvale).
Gained: Zoran Markovski (Melbourne Knights), George Svigos (Heidelberg United), George Georgiadis (Heidelberg United).

If Green Gully Cavaliers want to win the Premier League this season they have probably got the best man around to lead them.

Ian Dobson, who has taken Altona Magic to two championships and Melbourne Knights to one, has taken the job at Gully, a club desperate for the championship.

Last season Carlton skipper Andrew Marth was brought in to rescue the Cavaliers fading season, and with the help of some loan players, he took them to the finals, but not what they were after, the championship.

This time around, they've been busy again in the transfer market. They've added Zoran Markovski, George Svigos and George Georgiadis to their already impressive squad.

They'll win most likely got to a tribunal to acquire the services of Bulleen's Zdravko Atanasovski and Sunshine's Brendan Vassallo.

Last season's skipper, Cameron Brown, is certain to join promoted Westvale and Vlad Babic has left for Bulleen.

Not many sides can match it financially with the Cavaliers, making them the favourite most times to sign an available player.

This annoys most of the other clubs and, as president Charles Farrugia says, gives them a bad name unfairly.

MELBOURNE RAIDERS

1999 coach: Dusan Kalezic
Home ground: Epping Soccer Stadium, Epping (will play first two home games at Partridge Reserve, Lalor)
Last season: (as Thomastown Zebras) 10th
Lost: Nick Lazarevski (FC Monte, Switzerland), Chris Tenuta (Preston Lions).

Gained: Les Anastasiou (Heidelberg United), Zoran Kitanovski (Springvale White Eagles), Pino Corallo (South Dandenong).

It's all change in 1999 for Melbourne Raiders, the club formerly known as Thomastown Zebras.

The club have a new name, new ground, new coach and a fresh new image for their new Premier League campaign.

Dusan Kalezic, who coached Springvale White Eagles and Heidelberg last season, returns to the club he guided back to the Premier League when they were relegated a few years back.

The new ground, called Epping Soccer Stadium, to be opened for the Round Six tie against Port Melbourne, is expected to be one of the best around for National and Premier League.

Raiders vice-president, Fernando Di Masi, says the club is confident that the big changes they have made will work.

"It's going to be a challenge at the new ground because it is away from the residential area," Di Masi said.

"But we believe that the facilities that the ground has will attract people and once they see the comforts the new ground has to offer, they'll be back again."

"It's going to take the right marketing going with this new image. It'll take a lot of hard work, but eventually we'll get there."

The new ground will have seating for 1000 spectators and is said to boast one of the best playing surfaces in Australia.

On the field, the Raiders have signed striker Pino Corallo from South Dandenong to replace one of their top scorers from last year, Nick Lazarevski.

Also joining the club is former VIS and Heidelberg defender, Les Anastasiou.

Kalezic said he brought both Anastasiou and Zoran Kitanovski because "last year, the defence wasn't so good."

"This season will be hard. There are five or six very good teams."

PORT MELBOURNE SHARKS

1999 coach: Peter Tsolakis (player-coach)
Home ground: Anderson Reserve, Port Melbourne
Last season: fifth (knocked out in Elimination Final)
Lost: Arthur Tsitsakis (Iolissos Rhodes, Greece)
Gained: Dean Fak (Altona Magic), Nick Tsaltas (Gippsland Falcons), George Tzirtis (South Melbourne)
 Port Melbourne Sharks were rocked in the weeks leading up to the start of the Premier League season — their coach left to take another appointment.

The Sharks pulled off something of a coup when they appointed Alan Davidson as their coach for the season before he left to take up the coaching job at Malaysian club Pahang.

But the Sharks took it in their stride and quickly gave the job to Peter Tsolakis.

Tsolakis, who spent much of last year injured, will be back to a team who are a genuine chance for the championship.

Arthur Tsitsakis, who left for the Greek second division a couple of weeks ago, is the only major loss.

Dean Fak and Nick Tsaltas, two former Sharks, returned to Anderson Reserve and they could be joined by another old team-mate, Nick Palamiras, from Gippsland Falcons.

Peter Kakos' signing, from Altona East, is dependant on a tribunal hearing. Another player who missed almost all of last year through injury, Alex Efsthliou, has returned to full fitness.

PRESTON LIONS

1999 coach: Vlado Vanis
Home ground: Goodyear Stadium, Reservoir
Last season: Eighth
Lost: Tony Sterjovski (Tennis Borussia Berlin, Germany), Nick Radecki, Bill Slavrevski, Zoran Bizimovski.
Gained: Pece Stojceviski (Green Gully Cavaliers), Warren Spink (Singapore), Kamer Simsek (Fawkner Blues), Orhan Katouk (St Albans Saints) Chris Tenuta (Melbourne Raiders), Tony Kovacic (Chelsea).

Preston Lions' season last year was considered not good enough by many at a club who expect a lot better from a club of that size.

They have made their intentions clear for this season, they want to win the championship.

The Lions went out and got last year's Coach of the Year, Vlado Vanis, from St Albans to lead their charge towards the championship.

Vanis was the number one choice for Preston after he took the Saints so close to the title.

The stand-out signing for the Lions is that of Warren Spink. The former Soccerro striker returns to Preston from a stint in Singapore and will be the key man for this season.

The other signings that Vanis has made aren't exactly world-beaters. Pece Stojceviski from Green Gully and Kamer Simsek from Fawkner will help boost a squad that hasn't seen too many changes from last season.

Orhan Katouk has been signed from St Albans.

SOUTH DANDENONG

1999 coach: Fadil Murij
Home ground: George Andrews Reserve, South Dandenong
Last season: 12th
Lost: Pino Corallo (Melbourne Raiders), Paul May (retired)
May lose: Justin Geri (Westvale)
Gained: Robert Runje (Altona Magic), Ahmet Gurbinar (Sunshine Georgies), Nick Van Egmond (Bentleigh Greens)

South Dandenong just avoided relegation last season, their first in the Premier League.

This year they'll be back at their home ground, George Andrews Reserve, which has undergone a major revamp, after a season at Ross Reserve.

One of the best supported teams in the league, South Dandy, are looking for more than just survival this season.

Although Pino Corallo, one of their leading scorers from last year, has left and midfielder Justin Geri seems likely to, they've picked up some handy replacements.

Midfield playmaker, Nick van Egmond, comes across from Bentleigh Greens. And experienced defender Robert Runje crosses from Altona Magic along with Sunshine's Ahmet Gurbinar.

St Albans Saints duo Artur Kirichian and Idriz Pelja have been training with the club and are expected to join before the season starts.

Despite finishing in the lower reaches of the league table last season, South had a good strike-force and although Corallo has moved on, former Adelaide Shark Reshat Mezensol will be there again.

SPRINGVALE WHITE EAGLES

1999 coach: Milos Nasic
Home ground: Serbian Sports Centre, Keysborough
Last season: 11th
Lost: Zoran Kitanovski (Melbourne Raiders), George Uzelac (Fitzroy City), Vince De La Plaza, Marco De La Plaza, Marian Craciun, Neil Wallace, Michael Burfak, Zoltan Seci, Carlos Rastro.
May lose: Predrag Mladenovic (Westvale), Robert Marinkov (Westvale).

Gained: Zlatko Mihajlovic (Gippsland Falcons), Bill Armour (Moorabbin City), Nebojsa Milenkovic (Fitzroy City), Ninoslav Bezbradica (Yugoslavia), Dragan Dragosevic (Yugoslavia), Igor Mandic (Yugoslavia).

Springvale White Eagles were disappointing last season, following on from their first up Premier League effort in 1997 when they just missed out on the finals.

There has been big personnel changes at White Eagles during the off season as a result of their poor campaign.

New coach, Milos Nasic, comes in to replace John Gardiner and there is a whole host of new players at the club, with several also going in the other direction.

Like many other coaches in the league, Nasic is a little worried about dropping a division. "With four teams relegated, it is imperative that we stay in the league. If we can achieve something more, than it is a bonus."

Zlatko Mihajlovic, missed badly by the White Eagles last season, returns after a stint in the Ericsson Cup with Gippsland Falcons.

Bill Armour, who stood out in the relegated Moorabbin City side last year, is also a smart signing.

The White Eagles pre-season form has been patchy, but a trio of players from Yugoslavia have caught the eye of many.

Ninoslav Bezbradica, Dragan Dragosevic and Igor Mandic are very much unknown but indications are that they will make an impression in the Premier League.

ST ALBANS SAINTS

1999 coach: Steve Rastocic
Home ground: Churchill Reserve, St Albans
Last season: Minor Premiers (lost in Grand Final)
Lost: Jason Vukadin (Melbourne Knights), Harry Kari (Melbourne Knights), Paul Magdic (Melbourne Knights), Orhan Katouk (Preston Lions), Mark Silic.
May lose: Idriz Pelja (South Dandenong), Artur Kirichian (South Dandenong).

Gained: Ilija Dragicevic (Sunshine Georgies), Damian Vojtek (Melbourne Knights), Branko Bacak (free agent), Tom Balur (Western Suburbs).

Last year's minor premiers, St Albans Saints, have paid for having a successful season.

Coach Vlado Vanis was seconded to Preston Lions and they have lost three players, Paul Magdic, Jason Vukadin and leading scorer Harry Kari all to Melbourne Knights.

Plus add to this list Mark Silic, an inspiration in midfield for the Saints last year.

The Saints were a breath of fresh air in the Premier League last season, whether they can match it with the best again this year, considering the players they have lost, remains to be seen. New coach, Steve Rastocic, believes they can.

"We've basically lost the heart of the team. Karl, Vukadin and Mark Silic are all big losses," he said.

"Maybe we won't be as good on paper but their replacements certainly aren't nobodies."

"Player-wise and depth-wise we're not going to be as strong but if we can implement the system I want to implement, we'll be up there."

Rastocic was previously a very successful coach of Melbourne Knights youth team, and has worked with many of the team before.

SUNSHINE GEORGIES

1999 coach: Anthony Cassar (player-coach)
Home ground: Chaplin Reserve, Sunshine
Last season: Seventh
Lost: Anthony Magnacca (Canberra Cosmos), Ahmet Gurbinar (South Dandenong), Robert Krajack, Ilija Dragicevic (St Albans Saints).

May lose: Brandon Vassallo (Green Gully Cavaliers)

Gained: Cesar Hermosilla (South Werribee), Rafael Borrero, Francisco Vera, Darryl Spiteri (Werribee City), Franc Bot (North Geelong Warriors).

Sunshine Georgies went through something of a transition period last season.

With the squad they had, finishing seventh on the table may have even been above their own expectations.

A young side, with no real star players, performed better than many had predicted.

Coach Gus McLeod is gone, replaced by Anthony Cassar who will combine playing with his coaching role.

The calibre of players the Georgies have lost may make it a difficult season for the men from Chaplin Reserve.

Last year's Pascoe Vale Sportscentre/Soccer Weekly Player of the Year, Anthony Magnacca, as expected, was picked up by an Ericsson Cup club, Canberra Cosmos.

His loss will be great, as will that of another young player, Ilija Dragicevic, has joined St Albans Saints.

The Georgies will most likely lose another talented youngster, Brendon Vassallo, to arch-rivals Green Gully Cavaliers.

And what has come in for the Georgies doesn't exactly get the pulse racing.

John Kindtner, should be join from Green Gully, will be a good signing but the others who have joined, Darryl Spiteri and Franc Bot, spent last season playing in the first division.

WESTVALE

1999 coach: Phil Stubbins (player-coach)
Home ground: Green Gully Reserve, Kellor
Last season: Champions, First Division
Lost: Adrian Pender (Brisbane-work), Norm Dougherty (Japan-work), Stuart Cannell (retired).

Gained: Sonny Sevin (Melbourne Knights)

Westvale's rise to the Premier League has been quite phenomenal. A few short years ago they were in the Provisional League, but considerable financial clout has enabled them to attract a string of former NSL and Premier League players who have taken the club to where they are now.

Westvale will play all their home games at Green Gully Reserve, their ground, McKeechie Reserve, has been deemed unsuitable by the Victorian Soccer Federation's criteria for Premier League grounds.

"We are just after survival to be honest," said Westvale president George Bouzis.

"If we finish in the top six, I'll be happy but I think with the squad we have we could finish in the top four."

Westvale, with their money backing them up, are potential powerhouses of the Premier League.

They've signed Sonny Sevin from Melbourne Knights and are close to signing a few more players with noted credentials.

The fate of Camron Brown (Green Gully), Justin Geri (South Dandenong), Gary Hasler and Leigh Tsoumarmas (both Heidelberg), are likely to be determined by a tribunal.

Former Olyroo, Dean Culina, who has made it known that he would like to move back to Melbourne, could also be pulling on the Westvale shirt this season.

Australian News

UNDER-STRENGTH OLYROOS SINK

AUSTRALIA U/23 0
SOUTH KOREA U/23 2
 Seol Ki-Hyeon 25, Sinozic og 90
 At Bob Jane Stadium, Melbourne

By Dwyght Tuffnell

South Korea completed a double victory over Australia in the Olyroo Challenge on Friday night, winning 2-0 at Bob Jane Stadium.

The match was marred by severe thunderstorms that raged throughout the game, dumping litres of rain onto the pitch and basically ruining the game as a spectacle.

South Korea, once again, were good value for their win and, had it not been for a penalty save by Joe Didulica, the margin would have been greater.

Granted, the conditions were absolutely shocking, but the South Koreans played them smarter than the Olyroos.



Raphael Bove ... again impressed.

While the Olyroos played a short passing game that came undone on a waterlogged pitch, South Korea played it simpler, kick it and chase it.

Olyroo coach Raul Blanco said that the team had

not played it intelligently.

"We tried the short passing game when the conditions did not allow us to do so. The Koreans played it very cleverly.

"This is due to the inexperience in international football that our boys have. That's the reality, we were not used to the pace of it."

So bad was the torrential rain at one stage that referee Mark Shield consulted both coaches whether the game should be stopped to wait for the rain to ease.

The game carried on but it was debatable whether it was safe to or not.

Olyroo skipper, Brett Emerton, said later that it was the worst he had played in but said that it was safe for the game to continue.

The Olyroos seemed to cope with the South Koreans much better in the early stages of the game than they did a week ago in Gippsland.

But they fell behind in the 25th minute.

Sim Jae-Won floated a long ball forward into the Olyroo penalty and Raphael Bove, the Olyroo nearest to the ball lost his footing letting in Seol Ki-Hyeon who slotted the ball under the body of Didulica.

It was a goal that owed much to the conditions but it was a reward for the South Koreans who played it with a simple approach and waited for a mistake from the Olyroo defence which was forthcoming.

Michael Curcija thought he had earned the Olyroos a penalty just a few minutes later, but referee Shield waved played on after the South Melbourne striker appeared to be taken down by Sim Jae-Won.

South Korea remained in control and threatened to double their lead but efforts from An Hyo-Yeon and Seol Ki-Hyeon were just off target.



Jason Culina ... one of the Olyroos' best performers.

The Olyroos put their best move of the match together a minute before half-time.

Mile Sterjovski, on the left hand side, crossed for Sydney United teammate Jacob Burns whose shot on the run came back off the crossbar.

With the conditions at their worst, the Olyroos then gave away a penalty.

Chris Coyne's rash sliding tackle on Lee Dong-Gook was only going to end one way, a penalty for the South Koreans.

Lee Dong-Gook, a member of the South Korean World Cup squad in France picked himself up and had his spot kick superbly saved by Didulica.

In what were terrible conditions for a goalkeeper,

MATCH STATS...

Crowd: Approx. 3,500

Referee: Mark Shield

Australia: Didulica, Bove, Coyne, Sinozic, Sterjovski (Buljan 60), Burns, Robertson, Emerton, Wehrman (Garcia 69), Curcija (Care 75), Culina.

South Korea: Chung Yoo-Seok, Cho Se-Kwon, Park Jin-Sub, Sim Jae-Won, Park Jae-Hong (Chung Dae-Hoon 69), Park Dong-Hyuk, Kim Nam-Il (Kim Do-Hyun 36), Lee Kwan-Woo (Park Rae-Chul 77), An Hyo-Yeon, Seol Ki-Hyeon, Lee Dong-Gook (Choi Chul-Woo 77).

Yellows

Australia: Curcija (3), Culina (57)

South Korea: An Hyo-Yeon (32), Park Jin-Sub (49)

Best three players:

1: An Hyo-Yeon (South Korea)

2: Sim Jae-Won (South Korea)

3: Jason Culina (Australia)

Didulica had a fine game.

Wollongong Wolves' Sebastian Sinozic was having one of those nights where absolutely nothing went right.

Every time he cleared the ball it seemed, it would end up at the feet of a South Korean or go out for a corner.

He was beaten all ends-up in the 88th minutes by Seol Ki-Hyeon who crossed for substitute Choi Chul-Woo to give him a free header which he muffed.

Just when Sinozic might of been thinking that his night couldn't get any worse, it did, four minutes into stoppage time.

Chung Dae-Hoon sent over what was a harmless looking cross and Sinozic, perhaps unnecessarily, stuck out his leg and accidentally lobbed Didulica.

It was a rather fitting way to end what was a fairly ordinary evening for the Olyroos.

COMMENT

The only thing that Australia has learnt from the series against South Korea is that the visitors were a pretty good side.

The South Koreans, according to their coach, Huh Jung-Moo, were thrown together just before they made the trip here, yet they were too good for the Olyroos in both games.

So what does that say about the Olyroos? Does it mean that talk of an Olympic medal is fanciful?

The answer is no. Let's face it, the sides who played in these games against the South Koreans are nowhere near what they're going to be next year in Sydney.

Blanco estimates that he can choose about 15 or 16 players that are playing overseas.

The Olyroos had Raphael Bove, Chris Coyne and Mark Robertson in the squad for this series, the only three of the many to choose from.

Think about it. Players like Harry Kewell, Nick Rizzo, Bill Damianos, Hayden Foxe, Vince Grella and Tansel Baser are more than likely to make the squad.

What about Daniel Allsopp, Lucas Neill, Kosta Salapatis and perhaps even Josip Simunic. They'd also have to go pretty close.

Given that Olympic squads are (usually) made up of 18 players where that will leave many of the players who took part in this series?

And don't forget that Blanco can also bring in three overage players.

Brett Emerton, the captain of the Olyroos, though he won't admit it, is almost certainly guaranteed a spot in the squad.

Danny Milosevic and Joe Didulica may make it as the 'keepers, but what if Blanco decides to bring in, say Mark Bosnich as an overage player?

There is a good case for several other locally based Olyroos to get into the final squad.

Carlton duo Simon Colosimo and Marco Bresciano would be a fair bet as would Kasey Wehrman and Sebastian Sinozic.

And though he is only 18, Jason Culina was probably Australia's best player over the two games against the South Koreans.

It can be argued that Blanco is using these games to look at the local based boys, but if his ideal side includes Bosnich in goal, Foxe sweeping, Damianos and Rizzo in midfield and Kewell and Mark Viduka up front, is there any point to these games?

One has to feel a little sorry for Blanco though.

Australia, geographically, is in a poor position and getting players back for games, no matter how important, has always been a battle.

Blanco would love to bring back Kewell, Grella, Foxe and Rizzo for every game, but it is not going to happen.

He has been very good not to complain about not getting the players back here that he wants.

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Australian Features



LIFE'S LIKE A BOX OF CHOCOLATES FOR CARBONE!

Welcome Amigos! We are The Four Diegos Let's Samba, Let's Rumba, Let's La Bamba, Let's Salza down the Copacabana with sombreros on our head and ball at our feet.

Let's welcome our first Soccer Weekly guest of the week, Perth Glory's hard running, king of the flanks ... Tony Carbone

Diegos: "In the last two years you've made more trips back and forth from England than the cast of 'Neighbours', in your quest to to fulfill your Elle McPherson fantasy — to play as an overseas soccer professional. What has happened in your previous visits to England? Is it a case of not receiving the right offer yet?"

Carbone: "Last season I trialled with Tranmere Rovers and they offered me a three month contract which I didn't accept. I also trialled at Reading and felt that I did well, with the manager wanting to sign me but unfortunately the board vetoed his decision. I then returned to Perth with the view of trying again this season. When I returned this season, I trained at Luton and Notts County but no firm offers came my way so I was happy to return home and play with Glory."

Diegos: "You spent a lengthy period with Nottingham Forest in England after the World Youth Championships in the early 90s. What's the Perth Glory set up like compared to what you experienced at Forest and do you ever give your mates in Nottingham a ring to tell them that if they want to be part of a winning team they should come to Australia and sign up for the Glory?"

Carbone: "A few of my mates at Nottingham would rather be earning pounds rather than the dollars at the moment, even though they are playing in a struggling team at Forest. One of my good mates, Craig Armstrong, is doing well and breaking into the first team, so he definitely won't come. As far as the training is concerned, Bernd European methods aren't dissimilar to the training at Forest. The major difference between soccer in Australia and England is that it is an everyday passion over there and the media is saturated with it. Having said that, Perth Glory's average crowds of more than 15,000 people is more than English Premier league team Wimbledon can ever dream of."

Diegos: "It just seemed like yesterday that you captained the Young Socceroos to the quarter finals of the World Youth Cup in Australia in 1993. You have been the only Sandgroper to ever captain Australia in a major international soccer tournament. Do you still hold hopes to play for Australia at full international level and perhaps, captain your country again one day?"

Carbone: "Before I think about captaining Australia, I've got to try and make the team. It really is just one step at a time. If I'm playing well and Raul asks me to join the squad, I certainly won't knock him back."

Diegos: "In that tournament you scored a dramatic 'Golden Goal' winner in extra time against Uruguay. The Four Diegos were particularly impressed with your goal celebration that involved a mixture of delirious non-stop Forest Gump running and some quite passionate kissing and hugging of your teammates. If you score an extra time winner in the Ericsson Cup finals for Glory, will you adopt a similar celebration and if you do, which teammate will you kiss first?"

Carbone: "Which teammate will I kiss first??? Um...probably Vas Kalogeracos on his newly shaved head. In 1993 in that game that you're referring to, the adrenalin was certainly pumping, and I guess the goal celebration showed that. If I score in the Ericsson Cup finals I have a



Tony Carbone (front row second right) with last year's Glory squad.

feeling that you may see a similar display of joy."

Diegos: "Nino El Nino, The Four Diegos' resident weatherman, tells us that in 33 home games since Perth Glory's formation, it hasn't rained once during a game at Perth Oval. You're the type of player who likes to run and penetrate the heart of the opposition defence. Do you believe the dry hard grounds suit your game?"

Carbone: "It really doesn't matter what grounds you play on, you need to perform in all conditions. I do enjoy playing at Perth oval when it is dry but I suspect, when the wet weather comes, Bernd will expect the same 100 % performance from us all."

Diegos: "The size and vocal support of Perth Glory crowds have been likened to everything from the fans in the cheap seats at a Madonna concert to the Kop at any of the big English clubs. How do you believe the Perth crowd rates when compare to soccer crowds overseas?"

Carbone: "On my last trip to England, I attended the

Nottingham Forest V Derby County match and sat amongst the supporters in the stands. The atmosphere was phenomenal and very much like the support we get at Perth Oval."

Diegos: "Have you got a message for the fanatical Glory fans out there in the stands?"

Carbone: "If it wasn't for your support we probably wouldn't be where we are now. Keep on supporting us and hopefully we will win the title for you all."

Diegos: "Thanks Tony. We'll have a chat to our weatherman, Nino El Nino, to see whether he can guarantee continued fast, hard grounds for you and your Glory teammates. Adios Amigo!"

Carbone: "Thanks Diegos. It will do wonders for my Forest Gump running style. Adios Amigos!"

Diegos: "So Sydney, don't miss the Glory boys tonight (Jan 26) at Northern Spirit. Now let's all samba over to page nine to find out all about one of the Socceroo legends in the 1990s, Mr Aurelio Vidmar."

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Australian Features

ZORRO UNMASKED!

By Bonnie Mersiades

He may not wear a mask and a cape or carry a sword, but to many Brisbane Strikers fans, he's just as much of a hero. This Zorro instead wears a yellow shirt and blue shorts with number four, and he is one of the most respected and admired players in the Strikers' squad.

In his first two year stint with the Strikers, New Zealand international, Chris Zoricich, won all of the Club's awards and in his return season last year, he ran close in all of them again — despite the fact that he missed the first eight games of the season.

In fact, many pundits believe Zorro's absence from the playing field — along with Kasey Wehrman and departing veterans, Alan Hunter, Danny Wright and Gary Phillips — for such a large part of the season was one of the reasons behind the Strikers poor start to a disappointing 1997-98 season.

This season, the Strikers are playing with more confidence, but Zorro says his own form is down by his own standards.

He attributes this to the recently diagnosed blood disorder he has suffered most of the season.

"It was pretty easy to fix once the medical staff worked out why I felt so lousy, but it's only recently that I've started to feel close to normal again," said Zorro.

Coach John Kosmina has been quite outspoken with his views on Zorro's form and has publicly threatened to drop him altogether — something which Brisbane fans, and most observers, would find incredible.

"Yeah, Kossie likes to drop these things into the press before a game, but I think it's his way of keeping me on my toes. Every coach does things their own way."

"My approach is to train hard and perform to the best of my ability on the field."

Like his swashbuckling namesake, Zorro has a highly professional attitude and will do what it takes to improve his form, fitness and skills.

"I have a strong work ethic and that's come about, I think, because of the time I've spent overseas and some of the people I've played and trained with."

By the time he left his hometown, Auckland in 1988 as an 18 year old, he was a member of the Under 20 New Zealand squad, and had played for NZ national league team, Papatoetoe since he was 16.

Leaving his university studies in economics at the University of Auckland, Chris landed in Cambridge, England, and was offered a place with the football team, but ran into work permit delays.

In the meantime, he was offered a contract to play with Malaysian league team, Sabah, for whom he played for a season before returning to England to take up with Leyton Orient, in the Second Division.

"I enjoyed three and a half years with Leyton Orient — which is the longest I've spent anywhere. It was a good club and I learned a lot about the day-to-day discipline needed to survive even at that level in English football."

Around the same time he was lured to Australia in 1994 to join the then fledgling Brisbane Strikers, he also met the young woman who is now his wife, Joanna.

"We had a long distance relationship for a while, and then decided we wanted

to be together so Jo joined me in Brisbane."

In his first season, the Strikers finished middle of the table but in 1995-96, they made the finals for the first time, only to bow out to Sydney United after the first round. Zorro said the big difference between the two seasons was Frank Farina.

"It wasn't just the fact that he scored 20 goals, but it was also his professionalism and attitude. Here was this absolute legend of the sport in Australia coming back and working as hard — if not harder — than anyone else in the squad."

Partly because Jo was keen to spend some time with family in the UK, and because he was also happy to get some more overseas playing experience, Zorro left the Strikers at the end of 1995-96 and spent the next season trialling in England before settling with Chelsea.

"It was an exciting time to be there with Ruud Gullit and all the big names he brought in. Just talking to them and having the opportunity to train with them was

amazing, but I actually got to play with a few of them occasionally in the reserves," said Chris.

"It was hard work just to get into the reserves and it was cut throat to stay there."

Chris and Jo returned to Brisbane to re-join the Strikers in 1997-98. He said they were also happy to get back to Australia's climate.

"We both enjoy the beach, and prefer not to be too far from one."

Zorro often thinks about the Confederations Cup to be played in Mexico later this year.

Zorro knows it's a sore point for Australians that New Zealand beat Australia to it, but says the moment of knowing that they would be going to such a tournament, and playing against some of the top players in the world, was one of the highlights of his career to date.

"It was a brilliant feeling. I just couldn't believe it. I remember going back into the dressing room at Suncorp Stadium after the game and just smiling from ear-to-ear."

"I know it was disappointing for

Australia, and for my (Strikers) team mates, but we played better on the day. That's football."

Indeed, Zorro thinks this win probably turned even more people in Australia against the idea of a New Zealand team joining the Ericsson Cup competition.

"I can understand it from an Australian point of view, but it would be good for New Zealand football. Not because of the players, because there's already quite a few of us playing in the national league here, but because of what it would do for the game in New Zealand."

"Ultimately, I think a strong New Zealand team is good for Oceania and a stronger Oceania will benefit Australia more than anyone," said Chris.

He would not be drawn on whether an Auckland-based team would be his preferred choice of clubs, if he was to leave Brisbane at the end of the season when his contract expires.

"I'm not saying anything about that. But I'm always happy to listen to anyone when the time is right. It is true that Jo and I seldom stay in a place for longer than two years, but that's common to many footballers!"

In the meantime, Zorro hopes to finish off the season with a flourishing 'Z', both personally and for the Brisbane Strikers.

"We're in a good position at the moment. Middle of the table half-way through the season is not a bad place to be. We're confident we can improve that position and make the Top 6, and once you're in the top six, anything can happen."



Chris 'Zorro' Zoricich.

Have Your Say

Word has filtered through in the media that Carlton is to be sold to a new consortium and will play all its home games next season at Olympic Park.

As a loyal supporter, I am relieved that the players, coach, club name, colours and sponsors will remain. The potential of Carlton is enormous!

Anyone who has watched them play over the last weeks cannot help but be impressed. Coach Eddie Krenczevic has moulded this squad of players into a truly professional team that shows an incredible level of fitness, skill and determination. It is a team that whilst boasting only a couple of 'star' players has developed an enviable squad of highly skilled footballers that are an absolute pleasure to watch.

The main ingredient lacking from a completely successful equation so far has been the crowds (or lack thereof). This can partly be blamed on Optus Oval which is simply that; an Aussie Rules oval adapted to take a International Football pitch. It lacks atmosphere even on the rare occasions we have a decent crowd as they are all lined up on just one side of the ground.

It appears there has also been a shamefully underwhelming (but not altogether unexpected) level of commitment by the Carlton Aussie Rules Club to support and promote the team. As a basically brand new ground up franchise, we should have been seeing the sort of television and newspaper advertising that the Melbourne Storm ARL team has put together.

There obviously has not been a budget available for such coverage. But without it how can any club hope to draw uninitiated and curious spectators?

Melbourne is crying out for an International Football team the equivalent of Perth Glory and Northern Spirit. The new look 1999 / 2000 Carlton playing at Olympic Park and hopefully supported by a management with the wherewithal and finances to professionally promote the club we at last may be able to achieve this aim.

Oh and just a suggestion to the new Carlton management. A subtle but significant change to the club name; Carlton International Football Club (IFC) and a new logo to go with it please ... The current one (complete with 1970's style football) is awful!

And whilst I'm in the mood for offering free suggestions, when will the management of Soccer Weekly bite the bullet and start calling yourselves Australian International Football Weekly? Just remember to place a (round) football next to the banner and I'm sure no one will confuse it with lesser codes!

Russell Unitt
Email

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Australian Features

PLAYER LOYALTY SACRIFICED ON THE ALTAR OF BIG MONEY

By Les Murray

Jean-Marc Bosman said he was happy with his \$700,000. I would have been spewing. That's what Bosman got as final compensation for his long drawn-out court battle over freedom of transfer which, in the end, cost him his career.

A battle he won, thereby freeing up all other professional players to embark on their unquenchable avarice.

To recap, what the Bosman case did was to bring in the ruling that once a player was out of contract, he was on a free transfer to go anywhere he liked. But Bosman's colleagues have since exploited this ruling well beyond what he intended and have enriched themselves beyond their own dreams.

Their tactic is simple: once the end of a player's contract becomes imminent, he refuses to sign a new one, knowing that much of the inflated transfer fee that would have been paid for him in the old days will now go into his own pocket.

If his club puts the pressure on to sign, he will make demands that will send his wages through the ceiling.

Either way he cannot lose.

That is why Manchester United's Roy Keane wants a new salary of \$80,000 per week and why some players in Italy are earning over \$100,000.

Now I don't have much of a problem with players getting duly paid for their work. It is fair, after all, to say that in the past many clubs have done little better than exploit players as if they were no more than slaves or merchandise to buy and sell.

But what I do have a problem with is that loyalty has been the big casualty. And loyalty, and the spirit of actually wanting to belong to a team or a club, is still a pivotal component of sport, whether sport is essentially a business or not.

So who is this man Roy Keane to want this kind of money? He is essentially a rough and tough, gritty worker. Effective but that is what he is. He is what Eric Cantona once called his national captain Didier Deschamps: a "water carrier". Some Man U fans will be outraged.

But they, too, will admit he is no Giggs nor Beckham, not to mention Cantona.

I would suggest that he owes a lot to Manchester United. For if he played for Wimbledon or Southampton or Coventry, no one would have noticed him.

But Keane will probably get his \$80,000 per week with not so much as a Christmas card to Jean-Marc Bosman. While players get richer and richer, the courageous and pioneering Bosman will take his \$700,000, buy a modest cottage in the Belgian provinces and open a sandwich shop.

Some years ago, must be around ten years ago now, a couple of young Australian soccer journeymen came to see me at the SBS studios.

They were the twin brothers Gary and Simon Ireland, both talented players but whose obsessive love of the game outstripped their capacity to exploit their own potential.

They brought back from overseas a revolutionary development coaching method whose innovative brilliance stunned most Australian junior coaches once they saw it. It was called the Coerver method, invented by the Dutchman Wiel Coerver with who the Ireland boys had then worked.

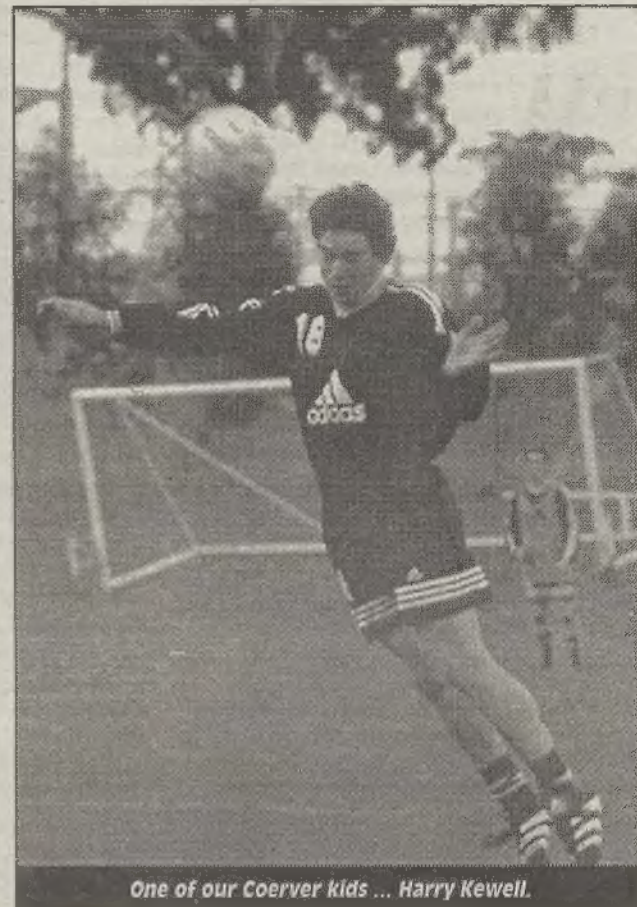
The method is principally based on the notion that, with repeated drills, both individual and collective, the natural skills of the most legendary of players can be duplicated and learnt.

SBS proceeded to expose the method and many coaches took to it enthusiastically. Among them was David Lee, then NSW Director of Coaching, who implemented the Coerver method in his program, incorporating it into his development system by something called the 'Coerver Kids'.

Now we are seeing the fruits. Many of the Coerver Kids have since matured, among them Leeds United's Harry Kewell and probably our brightest locally based young star, Brett Emerton. And there are and will be many more.

All because some coaches, David Lee most notably among them, chose to be receptive to foreign methods and ideas and to the truism that young Australian players primarily lacked natural technique — the technique that Brazilian or African kids learn in the streets of shanty towns.

And that's not a quality Australian coaches, who forever build shrines to "commitment, character and guts", have been big on.



One of our Coerver kids ... Harry Kewell.

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Australian Features

STERREY'S BUDGET BREAKERS SHOW HOW IT'S DONE

By John Economos

"We have no big names or high profile players. But what Newcastle Breakers do have, is one big heart, and we are big on character," stated Newcastle's 37 year old rookie coach Lee Sterrey last night.

Born and raised in Sydney, the outspoken Sterrey has over the past six years quietly built up a solid reputation based on his extensive knowledge of young Australian Soccer players.

"I've always encouraged young players and will always give them a go. If they are fair dinkum to me that they are willing to work hard, I'll stand behind them.



Greg Owens ... confidence has flourished under Sterrey.

"Australia has heaps of talent out there. It's just a matter of going out, digging them up and bringing them along at the right pace," Sterrey told Soccer Weekly.

The young senior coach — in his first season in charge of an NSL team — has a piercing eye for young talent and this he has proven with an admirable track

record of success in the NSL Youth League.

Sterrey won more NSL Youth League championships and Grand Finals (Sydney Croatia and Marconi) than any other coach in the nation.

Starting his junior playing career with Padstow United, Sterrey quickly gained representative honours with the Bankstown Rep teams before graduating to play for the NSW Under 14s, 15s and 16s as an uncompromising attacking defender.

During summer, Sterrey as a teenager was also an accomplished cricketer and actually played Grade.

Being in the Bankstown area it didn't take long for young Lee to soon become friends with today's super cricketing heroes, Steve and Mark Waugh (who also were star Soccer players during their youth).

"I taught them everything they know about cricket, and of course Soccer," Sterrey joked to us.

By the time he turned 16, Sterrey was ready to join a big club.

In 1979 the always ambitious Sterrey trialed, and was graded, with Sydney Croatia's youth team.

Less than two years later he made his debut in Sydney Croatia's senior NSL.

"I remember being called in to the first team by coach Dom Kapatanovic. He was an excellent coach who influenced me greatly as did Zoran Matic last season when I was his assistant at Marconi. Kapatanovic encouraged players and rarely balled them out," commented Sterrey.

From Sydney Croatia Sterrey moved to Marconi and played anywhere across the back line from 1984 to 1987 before joining Blacktown City for two seasons.

In 1990 Sterrey moved across to South Australia to play for West Adelaide (now Sharks), but having undergone no less than six operations on his dicky knees Sterrey thought to himself, enough is enough and retired from playing to embark on coaching the Youth.

Before injuries forced the relatively young Sterrey to retire, he had notched up 137 games in the NSL.

Back in Sydney he returned to Sydney Croatia as youth team coach and commenced his successful career coaching Youth.

Year after year Sterrey brought glory to his club and himself with his achievements from the bench by winning stacks of titles.

When Manfred Schaefer moved from Sydney Croatia a short distance to takeover Marconi Sterrey followed him in 1995.

The current Breakers coach instantly injected a brand of professionalism plus success to the Marconi Youth, rapidly grooming them for the future to be upgraded into the senior team.

Despite Sterrey moving to takeover the senior reins at Newcastle, today some of his 'products' are running around in the Marconi senior squad. 'Products' such as striker Luke Tomich, exciting mobile flankman Joey Bruni, attacking midfielder

Christian Care and tough defender Buddy Farrah.

But what about some of the talented players that Sterrey played against during his NSL years?

"Strikers Eddie Krncevic and Mark Jankovic were always lurking around and most dangerous.

"About the best midfielder I've played with or against was Zarko Odzakovic who went on to play World Cup for Australia in 1985 for Frank Arok. Tony Henderson as stopper or sweeper was tops as was John Yzendoorn from Victoria.

"I couldn't leave out intelligent players such as Paul Trimboli and David Lowe. Also Joey Watson was the best passer and crosser of the ball I've seen," evaluated Sterrey.

Sterrey was not hesitant in coming forward with the names Kapatanovic and Matic in terms of coaching.

"The first, Dom, I played for at Sydney Croatia. The second,

Zoran, I had the pleasure of working with him last season at Marconi as his assistant. You couldn't go past either of them. Both knew their stuff well and commanded respect," stated Sterrey.

"Players overall today in the National League are roughly half as good as they were say 10 years ago. This is mainly because they are younger on average.

"In my days there was always some experienced players in every team to make things happen, control the game or get them out of trouble.

"Players like Henderson, Yankos, Barnes. Big time players with heaps of experience. This doesn't exist too much today and thus the League's overall standard is down."

"I've got some real good young material that will develop in the years to come.

"They give me everything they got at this stage. They only lack experience and hardened strength. But they'll make it if they persevere.

"Bobby Catlin has been marvellous for us as keeper.

"Greg Owens is only 17 years old but is a special. Johnny Buonavoglia has heaps of pace and is still learning all the time. Glenn Sprod is another good one as is Andy Roberts.

"Our captain Shayne Pryce as sweeper is playing really well and has the maturity of players much older."

"I think the League should have 12 member clubs played over three rounds. We have lost too many players overseas and we are promoting players into the big time who really aren't ready.

"I've got a young side and we are every week the underdogs. That suits me real fine. "If Newcastle finishes the season mid-table, I suppose I've done a good job here.

"But let's be honest. "The League badly needs a healthy, successful and strong Newcastle Breakers.

"If we were near the top of the League ladder, I



The find of the season ... John Buonavoglia.



Lee Sterrey ... "I like the honest ones who take their soccer serious."

would guarantee you crowds of 12,000 to 15,000 at the Breakers Stadium every home match.

"I'm doing my best with what I've got. I'm happy with the young guys.

"I just don't waste my time with any young cocky players walking around with \$1 haircuts, one in each corner of their square heads.

"I like the honest ones who take their Soccer serious and have the burning desire to do well and make it for this Club," ended Sterrey.

Rounds 10 to 15 Sterrey went undefeated reeling off commendable results such as 2-2 vs Knights, 2-1 away win over Wollongong City, 1-0 win at home over Adelaide City and a battling 0-0 draw in Sydney against the glamorous Spirit.

Not bad for the young NSL rookie coach from Bankstown with no budget to spend on players.



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Australian Features

THE JOURNEY OF A GREAT SOCCEROO

Our second Guest of the Week is a great goal-scoring Socceroo who has made a name for himself in Belgium, Holland, Spain and at present in Japan, with Eddie Thomson's Hiroshima club.

His distinctive pacy style, long flowing hair and eye for goal have made him an instantly recognisable and integral member of the Aussie national team for many years.

Please a big Four Diegos and Soccer Weekly welcome to Socceroo and Sanfrecce Hiroshima goal ace ... Aurelio Vidmar

Diegos: "You've played in some of the best leagues in the world. At present you're tucking into some sushi and haggis and slamming down some Kirin beer in Japan with Eddie Thomson's Sanfrecce Hiroshima. What have been the highlights of your club soccer career and do you think you've reached your peak yet?"

Vidmar: "Well I'm definitely past my peak that's for sure. I'm almost 32 years old and have played a lot of soccer in a lot of different places. As far as highlights are concerned, winning trophies is what playing is all about. My first trophy at Adelaide City was very special. I won a cup in Switzerland after being 2-0 down and coming home to win 3-2 in the last 30 minutes of the game. I also loved my time in Belgium and won top goalscorer with Standard Liege

in my last year with the club."

Diegos: "A definite low light of your career was your time at Tenerife in Spain. The Four Diegos were so worried that we were about to send out a search party to look for you, for it seemed as though you had vanished from the face of the earth. Can you tell us about the circumstances that led to your problems in Spain? Did you feel that your career had come to an end?"

Vidmar: "I didn't think my career had ended but it was a particularly tough time for me. In my second year, during pre-season, the newly appointed coach of the club told me that I was no longer required."

"He left it very late and made it very difficult for me to find another club because most of the big clubs



Aurelio Vidmar during his successful spell in Belgium.

around the world had finalised their squads. As a result I was left on the outer. One positive was that I got a great tan."

Diegos: "No doubt there were times in Spain where you felt pretty tired and emotional about your soccer. Having experienced these lows, can you relate to why Mark Viduka felt compelled to return home for a break?"

Vidmar: "I can totally understand why Mark came home. My situation was that I wasn't playing and I wanted to play like every player does. Mark on the other hand, was on the receiving end of some pretty horrendous abuse from supporters. I can relate to the emotional stress Mark had to endure. He is an easygoing, simple person, so I can understand how the pressure eventually got to him."

Diegos: "I want to take you back to Australian Soccer's Nightmare on Elm Street 5: the MCG November 1997. You started in blistering form, helping to make Harry Kewell's opener in the first half and scoring what seemed like the winner in the second half to make it 2-0. There were times in that electrifying opening 30 minutes, when the Iranian goalkeeper denied you on a number of occasions. Do you still have recurring nightmares, asking yourself why you didn't put the ball into the other corner or choosing to blast it rather than place it?"

Vidmar: "I was hoping you wouldn't raise the events of that night. I can't say I've had recurring nightmares even though, the two or three days after were very hard for everyone. During the game I just did what I would always do when I'm faced one on one with a goal keeper, it's just that, on a number of occasions in that game he read me. I kept plugging away and still worked my way into some good positions. I was proud that I didn't drop my head even though I missed a number of opportunities."

"Some people blame the crazy spectator who jumped the fence, while others say that Terry (Venables) should have made better changes. It was just a huge disappointment. I haven't watched the game since and don't think I ever will."

Diegos: "In the aftermath of our World cup failure against Iran the pundits were laying blame on everything, it seemed, from El Nino to BHP share prices. If you were to choose one lesson that we can learn from failing to win the tie against Iran, what would it be?"

**continued on page 18*

UTS SYDNEY OLYMPIC V MARCONI FAIRFIELD

SUNDAY JANUARY 31

BELMORE SPORTS GROUND

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SYDNEY CHALLENGE MATCH



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See the Stars under the Stars



Francis Awaritefe



Sean Babić



Brad Maloney

DON'T WAIT TILL **2000** FOR THE **OLYMPIC** EXPERIENCE

SOCCER WOMAN

WITH JANENE MAR IN CANBERRA

ANSETT AUSTRALIA SUMMER SERIES 1998/99

Round Six

ECLIPSE IN NARROW WIN

CANBERRA ECLIPSE 1
(Cindy Doyle 76)
QAS STING 0

On Saturday in Brisbane, Canberra Eclipse advanced to equal first place with a tight 1-0 victory over QAS Sting, the two sides having entered the contest on level pegging with eleven points apiece.

Sting's Tammie Thornton missed a close opportunity in the opening minute, but there was precious little further activity near goal for the most of the half, as both sides failed to combine as a team and passes too often went astray.

In the 30th minute, Thornton was set free with a great ball from deep, the striker touching the ball inside her opponent, but the chance went begging as

the shot flew well over the bar. A minute before the break, Canberra Eclipse striker Cindy Doyle sent her attempt over and out from the edge of the box.

In the second term, the visitors gradually gained the upper hand, attacking up the flanks and looking the more likely to break the deadlock.

Finally a goal in the 76th minute to Canberra. Substitute Amy Kilpatrick created the winner after a mere 30 seconds on the pitch with a dangerous ball from the right of goal.

Doyle followed in at the far post to slot home the rebound off the keeper at close range.

QAS Sting: Nichols, Gegenhuber, Garven, Watson (Nolan 57), Bond, Mann (Hohnke), Revell, McShea, Thornton (Mitchell 75), Ferguson, Dunne.

Canberra Eclipse: Kitching, Bartlett, Wainwright (Foxhill), PC Hepperlin, Taylor (Channing 89), Cooper, Iannotta, Wilson, Foot (D Hepperlin 54), Casagrande (Kilpatrick 75), Doyle.

WOMEN'S COACHES WORKSHOP

A four-day Women's Coaches Workshop commences this Thursday at the AIS in Canberra for some of Australia's leading female coaches.

An initiative of AWSA's Development Group, the group of selected coaches will gain a hands-on insight into the latest theoretical and practical aspects of football coaching within the professional environment of the AIS under the guidance of national coaches Greg Brown and Chris Tansey and involving OAP players.

The workshop will provide added value to the work already being done in the States.

Coaches targeted hold experience at State or ITC

level within the last two years plus Level 2 qualifications.

Included in the workshop will be observation of national team and individual training sessions, group discussions, lectures and practical sessions, sports science lectures, video analysis, and analytical attendance at Ansett Summer Series matches.

Our two National Assistant Youth Coaches Jane Oakley and Wendy Carter will be joined by selected coaches Susan Clayton (Qld), Sharon Dewar (NSW), Tracey Jenkins (SA), Debbie Nichols (Vic) and Judy Pettitt (WA), each of whom have represented Australia as players over the years.

ROUND SEVEN

Saturday 30 January

Canberra Eclipse v SASI Pirates 4pm -
Ainslie Football Club
Northern NSW Horizon v NSWIS Sapphires 3pm -
Jack McLaughlin Oval

Sunday 31 January

Canberra Eclipse v SASI Pirates 3pm -
Ainslie Football Club
Northern NSW Horizon v NSWIS Sapphires 3pm -
Jack McLaughlin Oval

TOP OF THE TABLE CLASH WASHED OUT

The Round 6 clash between frontrunners SASI Pirates and NSWIS Sapphires at Sydney United Sports Centre was not to be.

Constant heavy rainfall rang alarm bells late Friday afternoon with the ground declared unavailable for at least the Saturday fixture.

Attempts to make alternate arrangements were fruitless, and the Sydney doubleheader was announced as postponed.

In two and a half seasons, this is the first time play has been stopped by Mother Nature.

All attempts are being made to reschedule the fixtures, but with a packed calendar, the matches will need to be played on a Tuesday and Wednesday.

TOP GOALSCORERS '98/99

12	Lisa CASAGRANDE	Canberra Eclipse
5	Natalie THOMAS SASI	Pirates
5	Lisa DUNNE	QAS Sting
3	Kristy PALOZZI	Northern NSW Horizon
3	Julie MURRAY	NSWIS Sapphires
3	Sarah GARVEN	QAS Sting
3	Sharon BLACK	SASI Pirates

PROGRESSIVE POINTS TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
CANBERRA ECLIPSE	10	5	2	3	19	22	-3	17
SASI PIRATES	8	4	2	2	17	8	9	14
NSWIS SAPPHIRES	8	4	2	2	13	7	6	14
QAS STING	10	3	2	5	14	20	-6	11
NORTHERN NSW HORIZON	8	2	-	6	9	15	-6	6

CANBERRA TAKE OUTRIGHT FIRST BEFORE SASI SHOWDOWN

CANBERRA ECLIPSE 2
(Lisa Casagrande 74, Kim Channing 89)
QAS STING 1
(Lisa Dunne 2)

Canberra Eclipse were the surprise packet of the opening rounds of the Ansett Summer Series, pulling off some stunning results with an all-out dynamic attacking style of play.

Rocked by long-term knee injuries to Matildas Sarah Cooper and Traci Bartlett before the season even kicked off, they were then set back by additional casualties Amy Wilson, Caitlin Munoz, and Dior Foxhill.

But the young Eclipse outfit rallied and were inspired by the magic of triple hat-trick hero Lisa Casagrande.

Canberra had the bye in the first week back after the seven week Summer Series recess. The big guns were back from the rehabilitation blues, but would their return somehow unbalance the lineup which had worked together so well against the odds. The question going into this last weekend was could the Eclipse carry on their winning ways?

It appears the answer is Yes. The team returned from Brisbane with the maximum six points, emerging as victors in two very contrasting battles. The prize was outright first position, whilst last year's finalists SASI

Pirates and NSWIS Sapphires were given a forced rest with their weekend's matches postponed.

Canberra Eclipse's Sunday win at Perry Park in Brisbane came thanks to a brilliant last-minute goal from substitute Kim Channing to defeat QAS Sting 2-1.

It was the home side who took the lead in just the 2nd minute of play, a spectacular goal engineered by an impressive build-up. Zoe Nolan threaded a ball from deep on the right into Kim Revell in the middle of the pitch.

Revell controlled and cut inside her marker before laying square for midfielder Kate McShea and the youngster's clever little lob over her opponent fell perfectly into the path of Lisa Dunne. On the run, the veteran striker then neatly chipped the ball over the outcoming keeper and continued on to head the ball home from 8 metres with a defender closing in.

Canberra almost snared an equaliser in the very next minute, Cindy Doyle's low drive from an acute angle on the left flying inches wide of the far post. Shots on goal was to be the order of the day, in stark contrast to the previous day, and Sting's Alicia Ferguson and Eclipse's Angela Iannotta came close near the quarter-hour mark.

In the 24th minute, a great ball from the defensive line into the path of Sacha Wainwright on the left saw an inch-perfect switching ball to Lisa Casagrande whose first time strike from the edge of the box flew just over the target.

Five minutes later, a Wainwright cross from the left was heading for the top far corner of goal and keeper Claire Nichols tipped the ball out. The crumbs fell perfectly for Iannotta but her drive from 10 metres was stopped by an unbelievable reflex diving save by Nichols. The 1995 World Cup keeper made three more saves before the break to retain Sting's tenuous lead.

Three minutes into the second half, the Queenslanders almost doubled their lead.

A scorching cross from Nolan on the right flew across the face of goal, the outstretched Dunne just unable to gain the vital touch.

The activity near either goal then slowed until Canberra Eclipse suddenly sprang back into life and produced the equaliser. Iannotta raced in and stole the ball off defender Sonia Gegenhuber, and continued on towards goal from the right.

With two defenders awaiting in the middle, Iannotta laid the ball square to Channing who took a couple of touches to control. Her shot at almost head-height was stopped from flying just inside the left post as a diving Gegenhuber on the goalline handballed the ball around the post and out.

The resultant penalty was blasted into the top right corner by Casagrande, an unstoppable strike in the 74th minute.

With time ticking down, Canberra stepped up a gear and peppered the goal in search of a winner. But keeper

Nichols had different plans and made three more brilliant saves.

The first was to dive bravely at the feet of Iannotta after two defenders had collided with each other, leaving the ball to run loose in front of goal. The following minute, Nichols made a fantastic diving save to deny an Iannotta rocket, and was again on hand to stop Wainwright's shot from the rebound.

A few minutes later inside stoppage time, Nichols was finally beaten by Channing's measured strike. From the left edge of the 18-yard, Channing tried her luck with a sensational shot which sailed over the keeper and into the top far corner of goal.

QAS' Tammie Thornton almost spoiled the Eclipse party with a close chance in the next minute, seconds before the final whistle blew.

QAS Sting: Claire Nichols, Sonia Gegenhuber, Sarah Garven, Olivia Hohnke (Brooke Short 84), Megan Bond, April Mann, Kate McShea, Kim Revell (Corinne Currey 86), Zoe Nolan (Jessica Mitchell 84), Alicia Ferguson (Tammie Thornton 76), Lisa Dunne.

Canberra Eclipse: Belinda Kitching, Traci Bartlett, Sacha Wainwright, Peita-Claire Hepperlin, Amy Taylor, Sarah Cooper, Amy Wilson, Angela Iannotta, Amy Kilpatrick (Nancy Foot 58), Lisa Casagrande (Dior Foxhill 79), Cindy Doyle (Kim Channing 67).

SUMMER IS... ERICSSON CUP

next round 17

Tuesday 26 January (tonight)

South Melbourne v Adelaide Sharks

Bob Jane Stadium

Adelaide City v Carlton SC

Hindmarsh Stadium

Northern Spirit v Perth Glory

North Sydney Oval

Brisbane Strikers v Sydney Olympic

Suncorp Stadium

Sydney United v Marconi Fairfield

Edensor Park

Canberra Cosmos v Newcastle

Breakers

Bruce Stadium

Wollongong Wolves v Melbourne

Knights

Brandon Park

Bye: Gippsland Falcons

Please note, these fixtures are supplied by Soccer Australia, and are correct at time of printing. Please check local guides in case of changes. We accept no responsibility for any late changes to fixtures, or incorrect information supplied to us.

RESULTS ROUND 16

Wollongong Wolves 1
Carlton SC 2

Newcastle Breakers 0
Sydney United 1

Gippsland Falcons 1
South Melbourne 4

Marconi Fairfield 1
Brisbane Strikers 2

Adelaide Sharks 1
Canberra Cosmos 1

Sydney Olympic 2
Northern Spirit 3

Perth Glory 1
Adelaide City 2

Bye Melbourne Knights

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Melbourne	15	10	3	2	32	18	33
Sydney United	15	9	2	4	25	16	29
Perth Glory	15	8	3	4	30	18	27
Carlton	15	8	3	4	32	17	26
Adelaide City	15	8	2	5	23	14	26
Northern Spirit	15	8	2	5	18	16	26
Sydney Olympic	15	7	3	5	26	21	24
Marconi Fairfield	15	7	3	5	27	25	24
Brisbane Strikers	15	6	4	5	20	18	22
Adelaide Sharks	15	5	3	7	24	25	18
Newcastle Breakers	15	5	3	7	16	22	18
Wollongong Wolves	15	4	4	7	23	29	16
Gippsland Falcons	15	3	3	9	8	28	12
Melbourne Knights	14	3	2	9	14	24	11
Canberra Cosmos	15	0	2	13	9	36	2

next round 18

(This weekend)

Northern Spirit v Sydney United

North Sydney Oval

Adelaide City v Canberra Cosmos

Hindmarsh Stadium

Melbourne Knights v Gippsland

Falcons

Knights Stadium

Sydney Olympic v Marconi Fairfield

Belmore Sports Ground

Perth Glory v Newcastle Breakers

Perth Oval

Carlton SC v Adelaide Sharks

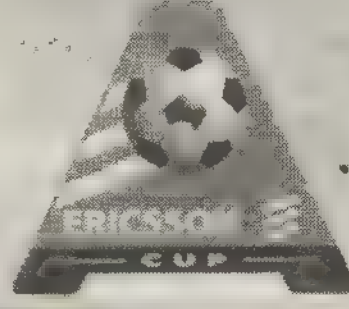
Optus Oval

Wollongong Wolves v South

Melbourne

Brandon Park

Bye: Brisbane Strikers





ERICSSON CUP

WEEK 16
22-24 JANUARY
1999

SLATER THE KING OF TITANIC DERBY

SYDNEY OLYMPIC

Cardozo 45, 88pen

NORTHERN SPIRIT

Slater 10, 30, Enes 55

At Belmore Sports Ground, Sydney

2

By John Economos

Despite playing for almost 70 minutes without centre-back Mark Rudan, Northern Spirit bravely kept their cool — and most importantly shape — to convincingly defeat Sydney Olympic 2-3 last Sunday night at the Belmore Sports Ground.

Spirit's valuable win not only kept their undefeated record over the past five matches intact, but lifted the League's fledgling side for the first time this season into the Top Six.

Spirit's heroic goalscorer, Robbie Slater, who in the past couple of matches has been utilised by Graham Arnold as a makeshift striker, has now taken four scalps for the Spirit.

But ironically, despite Slater's recent success with his scoring boots, he stated to Soccer Weekly after the match: "It's great of course to be knocking in goals, but although it's good for the team, the strike-line is not my favourite position. But if I'm scoring goals, and goals are what our team needs, well it's OK by me."

The Spirit opened the scoreline in the 10th minute when the energetic Slater knocked into the frame from 11 metres a Kresimir Marusic free kick which Olympic's right midfielder, Brett Emerton, headed down in his own box but his defence failed to clear.

In the 28th minute referee Simon Micallef somewhat harshly sent off Spirit's robust centre-back Mark Rudan,

when the blockbusting Emerton tried to crash his way past him. This was Rudan's second red card against Olympic having been sent off in Round One at North Sydney Oval following a tussle with the then Olympic midfielder Adem Poric (who now ironically is with the Spirit).

To fill the void Spirit coach Arnold quickly but reluctantly sacrificed a midfielder, swinging in his right sided wide man Philip Moss into a marking role alongside Paul Bilokapic.

On the half hour mark Slater doubled the Spirit's tally following a lovely Robbie Enes free kick. The ball sailed across to lanky central defender Paul Bilokapic who brought it down with his

outstretched right boot, and whilst off

balance knocked it inside with his left

boot to Slater to belt into the target.

Five minutes from the break Olympic teenage midfielder Jason Culina stung back for the home side but his explosive drive from 22 metres was solidly blocked by the Spirit's outstanding goalkeeper Paul Henderson.

One minute into injury time of the first half, Olympic ace striker Pablo Cardozo lashed in the first of his two for this match. A raiding Emerton was quickly dispossessed by a lunging tackle from Spirit left midfielder Matthew Langdon. The loose ball was missed by Bilokapic and spilled to a well positioned and cool Cardozo, who promptly slammed the target with his lethal left boot.

Olympic's dynamic 'tracker' Scotty Thomas, assigned in the first session to police Spirit's explosive midfielder Kresimir Marusic, inexplicably dropped off his 'target' in the second half to now concentrate on somehow shackling Slater who was ripping Olympic apart with his devastating raids.

Four minutes after the break Olympic threatened to equalise when a Mark Brennan corner slung in from the right was strongly headed well on target by towering defender Ante Juric. But Henderson recoiled quickly to brilliantly deny June any joy.

Five minutes later Olympic's classy central defender Mehmet Durakovic unleashed an explosive rocketing and late dipping piledriver from 35 metres that Henderson did very well to tip over his horizontal.

But Spirit in the 55th minute made it 1-3 as playmaker Robbie Enes scored with magnificent goal. Gathering in with his right boot a top cross fired in from the left by Marusic, Enes drilled the target with a violent left boot seemingly cementing victory at that stage for the visitors.

In the 70th minute Cardozo stabbed a Peter Tsenen cross straight into Henderson's grateful gloves whilst five minutes from the bell at the other end Enes streaked away onto a fabulously laid on flat through-ball from substitute Chi Chi Mendez, but Enes went perilously just wide of the base of the far post.

Olympic woke up and in the 88th substitute Carlos Gonzalez was fouled in the box for Micallef to quickly point to the penalty spot from where Cardozo scored Olympic's second and his 13th to keep him on top of the National League's 'hut-list'.

Following an understandably erratic start to the season with coach Arnold having to blend in a brand new team, plus the fact that he was hit by a horrendous string of injuries — all to key players — the Spirit now has settled down extremely well and promise to threaten one and all in the second round.

Without defeat in their last five matches 'Arnold's army' has reeled off four victories against the Adelaide Sharks, Gippsland Falcons, Marconi and now Olympic, plus a scoreless draw against the Newcastle Breakers.

Best for Olympic were striker Cardozo with his



MATCH STATS

Crowd: 9,151

Referee: S Micallef

Sydney Olympic: Souhoutsos: Blagojevic, Junc, Durakovic, Brennan (Kalantzis 62); Emerton (Gonzalez 84) Thomas, Tsenen, J.Culina, Cardozo, Tome (Baillie 62).

Northern Spirit: Henderson; Rudan; Arnold, Bilokapic; Moss, Enes, Cunico (Bosner 86) Marusic, Langdon (Weame 63), Slater (Mendez 73), Watkins.

Red:
M.Rudan 28 (Spirit)

Players Votes of the Year:

3: Slater (Spirit)
2: Enes (Spirit)
1: Henderson (Spirit)

'double', and the ever-reliable Durakovic, whilst the Spirit had outstanding stars in Slater, Enes, Henderson, Marusic and the invaluable Graham Arnold.

A tired Spirit player-coach Graham Arnold, who had a magnificent match in the sweeper's role, reflected after the game: "If we had our normal XI we would have played differently, but I watched Olympic a couple of times and thought we should stack our midfield and thus force them wide.

"Being without Ian Crook and Luke Casserly was a major loss for us. Slater is still as mobile as ever and should not be written off for the national team. I feel that our goalkeeper Paul Henderson right now is the form keeper in the League. This month is so important for us with two home matches still against Perth and Sydney United," ended Arnold.

Spirit play tonight against the wounded Perth Glory.

STALLIONS STIFLED BY STRIKERS IN STEAMY SYDNEY

MARCONI FAIRFIELD

5:00 PM

BRISBANE STRIKERS

Hughes 25, Wehrman 56

At Marconi Stadium, Sydney

1

By Bonnie Mersiades

After heavy rain the previous few days, the western suburbs of Sydney turned on a fine, but hot and steamy, late afternoon for Marconi's second-time-around game against the Brisbane Strikers at Marconi Stadium.

In fact, the weather would have made the Brisbane players feel right at home — which is precisely how they looked from the moment they took the field.

With both teams coming off a loss, and only five points apart on the Ericsson Cup ladder, they should have been fired up for a big result. Marconi has had a succession of disappointing results in recent weeks with losses against Carlton, Adelaide City and a 4-0 thumping from Northern Spirit; while the Brisbane Strikers have had their usual up-and-down form, with a 1-0 loss at Newcastle last week.

The scene was set, therefore, for a highly competitive match. However, where the Strikers were obviously committed and first to the ball, Marconi appeared lethargic and sat back, seemingly content to absorb the early pressure.

Worse still — it was clear to every Tom, Dick and Luigi (and Francesca) in the crowd that this was the case, and Marconi supporters were quite disparaging about their team's lack of effort with cries of "Wake up to yourself!"

With Brisbane completely dominating the first 25

minutes of play, it wasn't a matter of "if" for the first goal, but "when".

The "when" came in the 26th minute when a deflected clearance from Dominic Longo fell into the path of the marauding Nick Meredith, who passed it quickly to Kasey Wehrman, who laid it on for newcomer, Des Hughes.

Playing only his fourth game in the Ericsson Cup competition, Hughes made the most of the opportunity by drilling in a grass cutter from outside the penalty box, which flashed just inside the left upright.

Marconi's heads were down, and suffered more a few minutes later when coach, Frank Farina, was forced to make early substitutions in Buddy Farah for Longo and Christian Care for Mark Babic, due to groin and ankle injuries respectively.

The loss of such experienced campaigners at the back could have been expected to put Marconi further on the back foot against an aggressive Brisbane but, instead, Marconi started to claim back some territory and show some style — including a nice passage of play after a floating Wehrman corner which went straight into the arms of Marconi 'keeper, David Aceski, who passed it to Vlado Zonc.

He took it on a run up the middle of the park, holding it up to deliver to Care on the left, who switched it, via McDonald, to Farah on the right. Farah pumped it on to Francis Awaritefe's distinctive head, who nodded it across to captain, Brad Maloney, who passed it to Sean Babic who hit it just wide of the right upright.

The body language from Strikers' goal keeper, big Clint Bolton, suggested he was grateful it went wide.

The first half ended with a bit of a game on our hands, and the Marconi faithful were hopeful of a resurgence from their Stallions in the second half.

This is precisely what happened, with Marconi

coming out obviously fired-up by Farina and looking more like the Marconi we expect to see — chasing the ball and taking the game to the opposition.

They had their reward in the 50th minute when Pan Keun-Kim (again playing in an unusual midfield position) hit the ball in from the left to Awantefe who laid it back to Care who took a shot from outside the penalty box that deflected off New Zealand international, Chris Zoricich to Babic, who merely had to tap it in for a goal.

At 1-1, the game was developing into quite an enjoyable and competitive spectacle until the 57th minute when a Marconi pass went astray to defender Andrew Davidson who put a long ball up to Hughes on the right flank.

After beating two defenders, Hughes returned the earlier favour to cut back the ball for Wehrman to hit what was easily the goal of the day with a perfect strike on the right from wide of the goal mouth, with the ball finishing in the roof of the net.

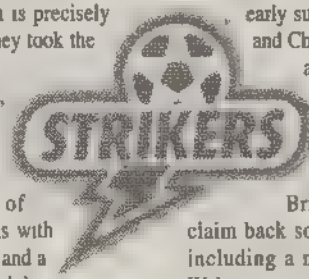
Wehrman showed off his athleticism right in front of the famed and frilly Marconi Stallionettes with his celebratory backflips.

In uncomfortable conditions for the western Sydneysiders, and with only one fresh substitution available, Marconi didn't look as if they would make up the deficit.

There were a few good runs from both sides every now and then, and an error from Aceski when he gave away a corner needlessly. Overall, Brisbane looked in control, more determined to be there, and less ragged of the two teams.

Frank Farina said his team wasn't aggressive enough. "You can always tell in the first twenty minutes how a game is going to go, and we just weren't competing. When we did, we looked okay and we got a goal back, but then we stopped competing again."

He said that losing Longo and Babic so early in the match forced them to change their formation, as he



MATCH STATS

Crowd: 3,052

Referee: Brett Hugo

Marconi Fairfield: Aceski, M. Babic (Care, 35m), Longo (Farah 32m), Pan Keun-Kim, Maoney Zonc, McDonald, Tomasevic, Trajanovski (Gibson, 60m), S. Babic, Awantefe

Brisbane Strikers: Bolton, Gwynne, Zoricich, Wehrman (Tollenaere, 75m), McLaren, Srhoj, Harris (North, 73m), Meredith, Hughes, Davidson, Steffanuto

Yellows:

Care (MF)
Harris (BS)

Votes for Player of the Year:

3: Wehrman (BS)
2: Hughes (BS)
1: Gwynne (BS)

didn't have an out-and-out stopper to replace either of them.

"We're also making silly errors, which cost time and possession."

He said that he expects to have a lot of Youth team players in the game against Sydney United on Tuesday. John Kosmina was very pleased with the Strikers' win.

"We were aiming to get 21 points at the turn of the season and we ended up with 19, so we are very happy with this win. We think if we can get six more wins we will be in the Top 6 at the end of the season," he said.

"Winning games gives confidence, and confidence helps win games. When Kasey plays it properly — as he did today — it will work every time because he can hold the ball up and he's totally committed."

In summary, the Brisbane Strikers were the more determined and committed team, as reflected in the score and an 8-1 corner count.



ERICSSON CUP

WEEK 16
22-24 JANUARY
1999

BARRETT BREAKS THEIR HEARTS

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 0-1
SYDNEY UNITED
At Breakers Stadium, Newcastle

By John Economos and Agencies

Sydney United last Friday night was forced to battle very hard before downing a defiant, spirited Newcastle Breakers at the Breakers' Stadium, ultimately running out 0-1 winners through a valuable David Barrett goal.

Just 15 minutes from the bell United's win has lifted 'miracle worker' David Mitchell's side into second spot on the League ladder.

A draw may have been a fairer result as the young Newcastle side squandered many first half chances, especially through South Korean striker Sang Chul Yoon who twice got himself into one-on-one situations but blasted wide of the target.

The Novocastrians through sheer unbridled enthusiasm repeatedly pumped high balls forward. This more than suited United's veteran centre back Velimir Kupresak who, with monotonous regularity, failed to lose one single aerial duel, whilst his central defending

partner Joe Vrkic was unpassable on the 'floor' all night.

In the second half, Newcastle looked content to settle for a 0-0 draw and only charged at United on counter attack raids.

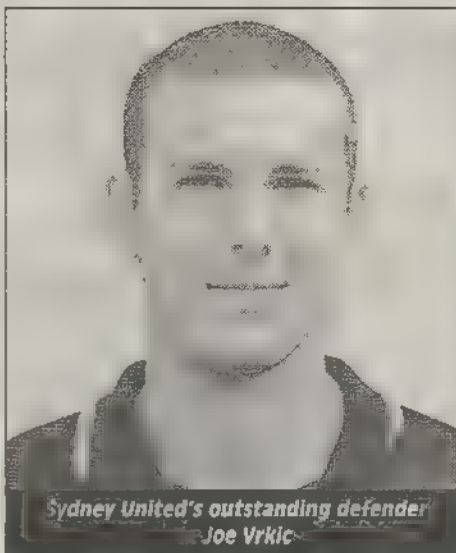
Sydney's 19 year old striker Joel Griffiths could have walked away with a hat-trick in the second half.

He received great support from the in form Walter Ardone. Griffiths best chance was a chip from 25 metres outside of goal, however it hit the post and went out of play.

In the 75th minute United struck. Griffiths jinked in the Newcastle penalty area, committing Catlin to the ground. He then pushed the ball to his left to Day who saw the unmarked Barrett further left and he buried the ball in the back of the net scoring his first for the season and his second goal for United.

A disappointed Newcastle coach Lee Sterrey who had previously gone undefeated in his last four matches, lamented: "A draw would have been a much fairer result as we had the better of chances in the first half, four against their two. It became clear that whoever scored first would win even though that had three odd chances in the last 10 minutes as we pushed up desperate for the equaliser."

"I think Mitch (Dave Mitchell), as the game went on, would have been happy for a draw, but he got a bonus in



Sydney United's outstanding defender
Joe Vrkic

the win. All I'll say is that I'm most disappointed that in the end we didn't get a point out of all that," ended Sterrey.

But David Mitchell understandably was satisfied in strapping down all three League points which now has miraculously cemented his Sydney United team into second spot on the League ladder.

"We played well and they defended very well. Once we scored they were forced to come forward and opened up."

MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 3,697

Referee: D Dwight

Newcastle Breakers: Catlin, Pryce, Roberts, McManus, Spod, Ritchie, Wilson, Buonayoglia, Shannon, Haythornthwaite, Yoon, Sanderson, Umlil, Owens.

Sydney United: Crews, Barrett, Kupresak, Kosa, Vrkic, Sanlarab, Berry, Ardone, Bennett, Day, Griffiths, Townsend, Moric, Calesta.

Yellows:

Newcastle Breakers: Shannon 38
Sydney United: Bennett 89

Players Votes of the Year:

3: Vrkic (Sydney United)
2: Catlin (Newcastle Breakers)
1: Kupresak (Sydney United)

"We could have had a couple more through Joel (Griffiths) and Danny (Townsend) though. It's a tough week coming up with us facing Marconi on Tuesday (today) and the 'Spirit' next Friday," Mitchell summed up.

MAGIC MARTH THE DIFFERENCE

WOLLONGONG WOLVES 0-1
Brooks 88
CARLTON SC
Marth 14, Colosimo 36
At Brandon Park, Wollongong

By Daniel Giorelano

Carlton consolidated their place in the top six with a gutsy 2-1 win over the Wollongong Wolves in front of 2,626 at Brandon Park on Friday night.

Carlton controlled most of the game adapting to the wet and slippery on the rivals and it wasn't until the last 30 minutes that Wollongong put any pressure on the Carlton defence.

And it was the inspirational leadership and guidance of Captain Andrew Marth who lead the blues to victory by controlling the midfield and setting up numerous chances for his strikers.

Wollongong had the first chance to open the scoring in the eighth minute when Raymond Younis blasted his shot over the bar from just inside the 18-yard box after a nice run down the right flank by David Huxley.

Younis had the best chance of the half for the Wolves and the striker should have hit the target with only the goalie to beat.

It was against the run of the play that Carlton opened the scoring through captain Marth when he headed in a Robert Markovac cross after being left unmarked in the six yard box.

Wolves goalie Leslie Pogliacomi was left with no chance as Marth gave the Blues the lead and a goal that stunned the mostly pro-Wollongong crowd.

The goal seemed to wake up the Wolves who began to push up the field in search of an equalizer. Wollongong playmaker Scott Chipperfield was well contained by David Cervinski on the left flank not allowing the Wolves creative man to settle into the game.

In the 36th minute Carlton defender Simon Colosimo finished off a brilliant individual effort to double Carlton's lead, seemingly putting the game out of the reach of the home side considering the damp conditions.

Colosimo retrieved the ball from just outside the 18 yard box and then dribbled the ball past two defenders, finishing his run by cheekily chipping Pogliacomi.

At 2-0, Carlton seemed to be cruising towards victory but the introduction of Fijan, Esala Masi, early in the second half led to a more attacking and creative Wollongong.

The Wolves dominated most of the second half but poor finishing was the eventual downfall of the home side, said coach Nick Theodorakopoulos.

Masi had only been on the field only a matter of seconds when he forced Carlton keeper Adrian Cagali to make his first real save of the match as the Fijan somehow got a shot on goal whilst being surrounded by four defenders.

This seemed to spark the home side who pushed forward creating wave upon wave of attack on the Carlton goal.

Wollongong was finally rewarded for their constant pressure with a great team goal finished off by Michael Brooks in the 83rd minute. Again it was that man, Masi, who set up the goal with a clever back heel to Brooks who calmly slotted the ball wide of Cagali.

For the remaining 10 minutes, Wollongong gave every thing they had and it was Masi who almost stole a draw with a thunderous drive from 20 yards out which just sailed wide of the post.

Wollongong's inadequacies in front of goal as well as Carlton's tight defence cost the Wolves a chance of salvaging any points from the game.

After the game Wollongong coach Nick Theodorakopoulos conceded that experience was the key to winning the game.

"The experience showed and it paid off with goals from two very good players."

MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 2,626

Referee: M Breeze

Wollongong Wolves: Pogliacomi, Sours, Ceccoli, Stanton, Horsley, Brooks, Chipperfield, Younis (82' Masi), Spencer, Huxley (53 Surjan), Reid

Carlton SC: Cagali, Anthopoulos, Stergiopoulos, Colosimo, Douglas, Marth, Atkinson, Moriera (85' Pir), Tricario (67' Josifovski), Cervinski, Markovic (92' Ouliaris).

Yellow:

Carlton: Anthopoulos 40, Tricario 6, Colosimo 78.
Wollongong Wolves: Chipperfield 90'

Players Votes of the Year:

3: Marth (Carlton)
2: Tricario (Carlton)
1: Masi (Wolves)

"We were warned in the lead up to the game that Carlton were going to be a difficult opponent and not to take them lightly".

Wollongong now has very little chance of qualifying for the final six where as Carlton are nicely placed in fourth

J. A. TOO GOOD FOR FALCONS

GIPPSLAND
Thompson 86
SOUTH MELBOURNE
Anastasiadis 30, 55, Curcija 73,
Coveny 76
At Mobil Park, Gippsland

By Soccer Weekly

They may have lost to the champions by four goals to one, but, according to Manny Gotis, the Falcons played far better than the previous week against Canberra when the Gippsland side were "shocking".

Nevertheless, the quality of South Melbourne shone through as the like of Trimboli, Anastasiadis and Coveny showed why they are players with international experience.

South, with Perth's shock loss at home, are now sitting pretty on top of the Ericsson Cup.

Gippsland, however, did their hope no good at all with the red card of defender Anderson in the 40th minute. This was the third time this season a red card has been handed out to a Falcon.

South opened the scoring in the 30th minute when some Trimboli magic ended up with Bojo Jevdjovic punching the ball out from the Falcons goal and Anastasiadis it was who scored.

And again the former Greek-based striker scored in the 55th minute when Clayton Bell allowed him too much space.

In the 75th minute sub Curcija got on the scoresheet and just a minute later New Zealander Vaughan Coveny effectively ended the game as a contest with a fourth.

Fortunately for the home side, the effervescent Archie Thompson, unlucky not to be selected in the recent Olyroo series, got a consolation goal four minutes from



John Anastasiadis ... two goal hero

time after the powerful Marko Perinovic did the hard work.

MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 3,121

Referee: B Panella

Gippsland Falcons: Jevdjovic, Anderson, Bel, McNicol (Savage 77), Osman, Thompson, Hutchinson (Puca 77), Canosa, Vargas, Hastie, Becevinovski (Perinovic 52)

South Melbourne: Petkovic, Isolidis, De Amicis, Coveny, Trimboli (Mustafa 69), Anastasiadis (Curcija 85), Cuzzupe, Polak, Gotzioulis, Tskenis, Liparoti (Tambouras 79).

Yellow:

South Melbourne: Isolidis (12)
Gippsland Falcons: Osman (22), Hastie (40), Thompson (55), Vargas (89)

Red:

Gippsland Falcons: Anderson (40)

Votes for Player of the Year:

3: Anastasiadis (SM)
2: Trimboli (SM)
1: Thompson (GF)



ERICSSON CUP

WEEK 16
22-24 JANUARY
1998

ZEBRAS SNATCH LAST GASP WIN

PERTH GLORY 1
Boutsianis 80
ADELAIDE CITY 2
Tobin 70, Hassell 89
At Perth Oval, Perth

By Richard Kreider

Perth Glory slipped two places to fourth on the Ericsson Cup ladder after suffering a 2-1 loss to Adelaide City in sweltering conditions at Perth Oval last Sunday.

Zebras' midfielder Bradley Hassell gave his side victory and fifth placing with an opportunist goal in injury time.

The 12,290 crowd, which saw Glory succumb to its second defeat in as many weeks, was the lowest home attendance since Round 21 in March last season (11,260) against Gippsland Falcons.

Despite the result, Glory coach Bernd Stange is not pressing any panic buttons. "We are a long way from any crisis situation", said Stange.

"We at least deserved a draw today after some good chances that very nearly went out way. It was a lucky goal that won it for Adelaide but that is the way it goes sometimes," said Stange who surprised everyone by starting his key striker John Markovski on the bench.

A pleasing sight for Glory fans however, was the return of dynamic wing-back Robert Trajkovski who turned on a man of the match performance following an eight week lay-off with a groin injury.

Neither side gained the ascendancy in the opening half since the game was continually stifled in midfield. City play-maker Carl Veart came close to making a breakthrough after 11

minutes which he was sent goalbound, but Glory 'keeper Danny Milosevic reacted swiftly to douse the danger.

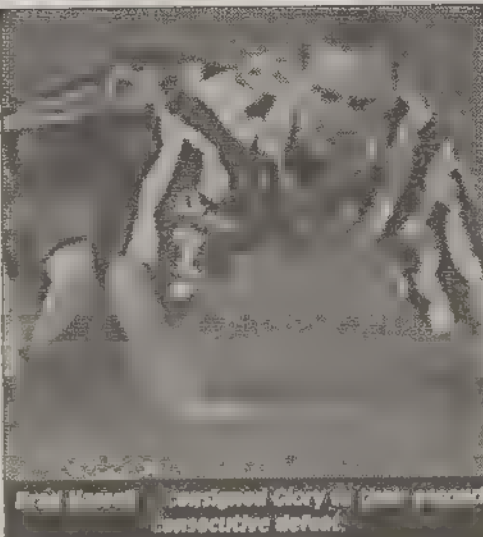
Glory skipper Gareth Naven responded a minute later with a 25 metre waist-high bullet that startled goalkeeper Jason Petkovic, who could only parry the hot shot away. The end-to-end battle continued to the half-time whistle.

Danny Hay was the next to threaten when he finished one of his mazy runs and a quick one-two with Bobby Despotovski with a fierce strike that zipped centimetres past Petkovic's right-hand upright.

The Zebras' first real scoring chance came in the 56th minute when Damian Mori, who was again kept quiet by Glory defender Gavin Wilkinson, whipped over the perfect centre to Nick Sabljak who had the goal at his mercy, only to direct his volley well high of the target.



Robbie Trajkovski ... great to have him back.



Sabljak's 'reward' for the miss was to be immediately substituted by Brad Armour.

Glory forward Markovski replaced Vas Kalogeracos after an hour's play and immediately went on the offensive, but not before copping an elbow to the face by City captain Alex Tobin seconds later (that went unnoticed by referee Jeremy Blaney).

Tobin in fact opened the scoring for the visitors nine minutes later when he headed home a corner from Dino Mennillo, who had come off the bench for Veart.

Glory drew level ten minutes later from a free-kick that was conceded by Zebra's seasoned stopper Milan Ivanovic 25 metres out from his goal. The distance didn't stop substitute Con Boutsianis from finding the target with one of his trademark curling missiles which simply transformed Petkovic into a spectator.

Although the goal lifted Glory, they

MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 12,290

Referee: Jeremy Blaney

Perth Glory: Milosevic, Trajkovski, Miller, Hay, Wilk ngson, Deans, Naven, (Garcia 80), Strudwick (Boutsianis 70), Kalogeracos (Markovski 80), Despotovski, Halpin.

Adelaide City: Petkovic, Ivanovic, Tobin, Taliana, Mori, Veart (Mennillo 65), Costanzo, Hassell, Tominello (Yates 72), Sabljak (Armour 57), Kim.

Yellow:

Perth Glory: Strudwick

Votes for Player of the Year:

- 3: Trajkovski (Perth Glory)
- 2: Costanzo (Adelaide City)
- 1: Tobin (Adelaide City)

couldn't breakthrough a second time. With a drawn result seeming imminent, Glory stopper Danny Hay conceded a soft free-kick in almost an identical position as the one at the opposite end.

Ivanovic caught the Perth eight-man wall by surprise with a curling shot that crashed onto the crossbar, Hassell was the first to the rebound and he didn't waste any time in drilling the loose ball into the roof of the net.

As soon as the final whistle sounded, City coach Zoran Matic gathered his travelling party together and proceeded back to the hotel for a well earned dip in the pool.



AGONY AND ECSTASY AS SHARKS GIVE CANBERRA A POINT

ADELAIDE SHARKS 1
Porter 55
CANBERRA COSMOS 1
Duric og 13
At Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide

By Margaret Bowden and Donald Campbell

Every passion in the world game was roused at Hindmarsh this evening. In an ironic twist Joel Porter, who replaced Sharks' villain Alex Duric at half-time, became the hero of the match.

In perfect conditions, thanks to the revamped kick-off time of 8pm, the Sharks scored both goals but only came out with a draw. Most of Adelaide was at the Tour Down Under or the cricket, leaving only the faithful to venture to Hindmarsh.

No one had counted on the influence of new Cosmos' and former Australian National Women's coach Tommy Sermani.

Had they come to Hindmarsh, they would have relished patches of end to end brilliance; gasped at Cosmos keeper Vilson Knezevic's acrobatics; suffered Alex Duric's agony at scoring an own goal; and revelled in Porter's ecstasy at

levelling the score ten minutes after setting foot on the pitch.

The Sharks' ongoing saga of missed scoring chances was too much for some, who went home at half time. Both teams played with attacking flair and solid defending throughout the 90 minutes.

The Sharks followed their normal pattern of exciting build-ups through Branko Milosevic, Richie Alagich, Alex Castro, Derek Poimer and Duric, but the finishing was off target or spectacularly saved by 88 5 Coast FM Man of the Match Knezevic.

Knezevic kept Cosmos in the game from the 10th minute with a brilliant reflex save to deny a Castro piledriver from the right.

Cosmos' Lindsay Wilson was outstanding, time and again dispossessing Artone, Castro and Poimer to send Canberra into counter attack.

Wilson's hard running at the Sharks' defence led to the mix up of the season between Duric and keeper David Miller. Duric turned blindly to pass back to Miller who was well out of goal to his left, expecting a tap back.

Duric miscued his pass and Miller failed to get back to stop the ball trickling over the line. This spurred Alagich into a solo bid to level the score but Knezevic made a magnificent save at the far post, then denied Hamilton Thorp, Castro and Artone in quick succession.

Anthony Magnacca, Paul Roberts, Leo Langone, Doug Marcina, Peter Buljan and Wilson constantly threatened for the Cosmos, but their shots were blocked by the Sharks' defence or missed their target. Milosevic was a standout at the back for the Sharks.

Corey Artone, rarely in the starting line-up, burned through defenders Wilson, Danny Burt, Toplica Popovich and Amarildo Mighetti, but missed two close range chances in the second half.

Knezevic's brilliance denied Alagich. Poimer and Porter certain second half goals. He had no chance in the 56th minute, however, when Artone sent a high ball from the right across the box.

Porter raced in behind the backpeddling defence and headed the ball down into the left hand corner of the goal. The next ten minutes was end to end excitement, both teams desperate for a winner.

Buljan had a close range shot blocked by Miller then Burt saved a Porter shot on the goal line. In the dying seconds, Canberra missed the chance of the match.

Gabriel Gonzalez slammed a shot goalwards, Miller parried straight to Peter Buljan who slotted the ball past him, only to see it hit the inside of the left post and ricochet back into Miller's arms.

MATCH STATS...

Crowd: Official 2,022

Referee: Louis Prospero

Adelaide Sharks: Miller, Alagich, Castro, Kuzmanovic Kokkinoplis, Artone, Milosevic, Thorp (Tibaldi 74), Poimer, Dunc (Porter 46), Gibson.

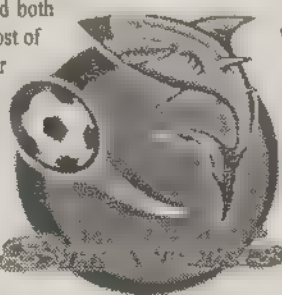
Canberra Cosmos: Knezevic, Popovich, Burt, Marcina (Pirdue 69), Magnacca (Dejesus 54), Buljan, Arranz, Langone (Gonzalez 79), Mighetti, Roberts, Wilson.

Yellow:

Adelaide Sharks: Artone

Votes for Player of the Year:

- 3: Vilson Knezevic (Cosmos)
- 2: Corey Artone (Sharks)
- 1: Lindsay Wilson (Cosmos)



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SOUTHERN DIVISION

Round Twelve

AIS0 Bulleen Inter4

(Catch-up game)

League Ladder

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Melbourne	13	8	2	3	25	13	26
VIS	11	7	3	1	23	12	24
Carlton	12	7	2	3	28	14	23
Gippsland Falcons	14	6	2	6	23	23	20
Melbourne Knights	12	4	2	6	19	24	14
Bulleen Inter Kings	12	4	2	6	12	19	14
Albury Wodonga	12	0	1	11	12	37	1

Round 18

Saturday 30 January

VIS v South Melbourne, (Grange Reserve, 3.30 pm)

Sunday 31 January

Melbourne Knights v Bulleen Inter,
(Knights Stadium, 3.30 pm)
 Carlton v Albury Wodonga,
(Optus Oval, 4 pm)
 Bye v Gippsland Falcons

SOUTHERN SUMMARY

The only match in the Southern Division this week-end was a catch-up game from Round 12 in which Bulleen recorded the big upset of the season with a 4-0 win over the Victorian Institute of Sport.

Michael Gulino got behind the defence and beat a shot around the keeper after 21 minutes, then Rogo de Vito fired in a well struck effort from around 20 metres in 36 minutes.

NORTHERN SUMMARY

Mark Hagger's late penalty goal gave Marconi Fairfield a win by a goal to nil over ACTAS in a Round 20 match played in midweek.

With four matches postponed by the weather on Saturday, the Northern Division program was much reduced too. In the matches which went ahead on Friday, Elias Dimoutzidis scored both goals for the AIS in its two-nil win over Wollongong Wolves at Brandon Park.

It was a good game according to Steve O'Connor, and the AIS created lots of chances, but managed to take only a couple of them.

The Wolves fought hard, but could make no impression on the AIS defence.

LEADING SOUTHERN SCORERS

Andrew Mashoian	South Melbourne	11
Jovanco Novacevski	Carlton	6
Scott McDonald	VIS	6
Deniz Ekacic	Carlton	5
Tony Ouliaris	Carlton	5
Erhan Bayraktar	South Melbourne	5

Any prospect of a VIS revival was nipped in the bud by Paul Salvatore two minutes after the interval, when he followed up to score after two good saves by the VIS keeper.

Gulino's second goal after 69 minutes sealed the victory. Robert Bresciano, younger brother of Marco of Carlton, Nathan Thomas Gulino and De Vito were the pick of the Bulleen players who will remember this victory for sometime to come.

Denis Vucinic played well for the VIS as did substitute Daniel Raney.

Newcastle Breakers lost at home to Sydney United by two goals to nil. Both United goals came late in the game. Greg Collins scored after 78 minutes, then Joe Moric converted a penalty kick to make the margin a little more comfortable.

Finally Sydney Olympic downed the league leader Northern Spirit by two goals to one. Olympic led two-nil in the first half with goals by Leo Carle and Lee Miott. Then its grip slackened and Spirit came back with a single goal by Adam Snyder, but Spirit could not find an equaliser.

It is understood that Marconi's next three games will be postponed as the club is taking part in an Italian tournament.

There is a full round of matches on Australia Day and these will be reported on next week.

NORTHERN DIVISION

Round Twenty

Marconi Fairfield1 ACTAS0

Round Sixteen

Newcastle Breakers0 Sydney United2
 Wollongong Wolves0 AIS2

Marconi Fairfield v QAS

Northern Spirit Colts v Sydney Olympic Academy

Wollongong Wolves Colts v ACTAS

Sydney United Colts v Marconi Fairfield Colts

(All four matches postponed because of the weather)

Sydney Olympic2 Northern Spirit1

NSWIS v Bye

League Ladder

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Northern Spirit	15	11	1	3	30	11	34
Marconi Fairfield	15	9	5	1	46	12	32
AIS	14	9	4	1	51	11	31
Sydney Olympic	15	9	2	4	40	17	29
QAS	14	9	1	4	44	18	28
Newcastle Breakers	14	8	4	2	27	14	28
Wollongong Wolves	12	8	1	3	28	11	25
NSWIS	12	7	3	2	27	7	24
Sydney United	15	6	3	6	27	22	21
Marconi Fairfield Colts	14	5	1	8	15	25	16
ACTAS	15	3	1	11	23	42	10
Sydney United Colts	14	3	0	11	15	43	9
Northern Spirit Colts	14	2	2	10	14	56	8
Sydney Olympic Academy	14	0	3	11	9	45	3
Wollongong Wolves Colts	14	0	1	13	3	65	1

Round 17 Tuesday 26 January

Sydney Olympic Academy v W'gong Wolves Colts,
(Wentworth Park, 4 pm)
 Marconi Fairfield Colts v AIS,
(Marconi Stadium, 5 pm)
 Northern Spirit v Sydney United Colts,
(Cromer Park, 4 pm)
 QAS v Sydney Olympic,
(Suncorp Stadium, 4.30 pm)
 Sydney United v Marconi Fairfield,
(TBA, 7.15 pm)
 ACTAS v Newcastle Breakers,
(Bruce Stadium, 4.30 pm)
 Wollongong Wolves v NSWIS,
(Brandon Park, 4 pm)
 Bye v Northern Spirit Colts

Round 18 Saturday 30 January

Northern Spirit v Sydney United,
(Cromer Park, 4 pm)
 Sydney United Colts v Newcastle Breakers,
(Edensor Park, 5 pm)
 AIS v Wollongong Wolves Colts,
(AIS Soccer Field, 7 pm)
 NSWIS v Northern Spirit Colts,
(Valentine Park, 6 pm)

LEADING NORTHERN SCORERS

Mark Hagger	Marconi	15
Russell Miner	QAS	12
Simon Catanzaro	NSWIS	9
Kevo Guleserian	AIS	9
Daniel Kukucka	Sydney United	9
Anthony Bauer	Newcastle Breakers	8
Chad Mansley	Newcastle Breakers	8
Paul Tuturevski	Wollongong Wolves	8
Joe Bruni	Marconi	7
Tony Bauer	Newcastle Breakers	7
Anthony Mondello	Marconi Colts	7
Jim Bakis	Sydney Olympic	7
Ali Jomaa Sydney	Olympic	7
Sasho Dimovski	Wollongong Wolves	7

Sunday 31 January

Marconi Fairfield Colts v ACTAS,
(Marconi Stadium, 5 pm)
 Sydney Olympic v Marconi Fairfield,
(Belmore Sports Ground, 4pm,
 Match may be postponed.)
 Wollongong Wolves v Sydney Olympic Academy,
(Brandon Park, 4 pm)
 Bye v QAS

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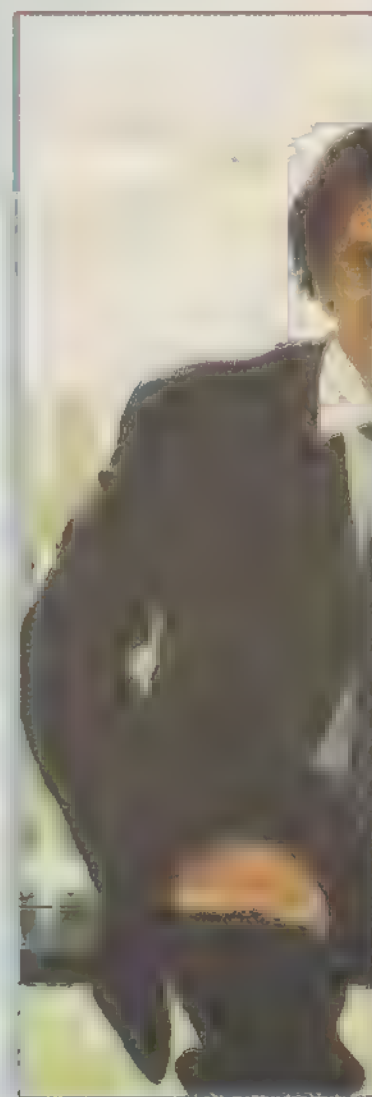
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20 BELGRAVE ST, KOGARAH NSW 2217



Christian Care, Sean

M A R C O N I ' S S T Y L I





Babic & Joe Bruni

S H Y O U N G S T A R S



Australian Features

HARRY'S TRAINING ROUTINE AT LEEDS

MONDAY

Injury prevention/rehabilitation
Stretches to ease aching and injuries from Saturday's game
Warm up 15 minutes
Training consisting of skill work (ie. ball drills), shooting practice, small sided (5 per team) game
2.5 hours

TUESDAY

Massage
Similar stretching routine
Training routine, similar morning session as Monday
3 hours
Light lunch
Fitness training in the afternoon consisting of shuttle runs, sprint training and working on sharp turning (cone work)
2 hours
Heavy weights session upper body (strength)
1 hour: **total 6 hours for the day**

WEDNESDAY

Day off

THURSDAY

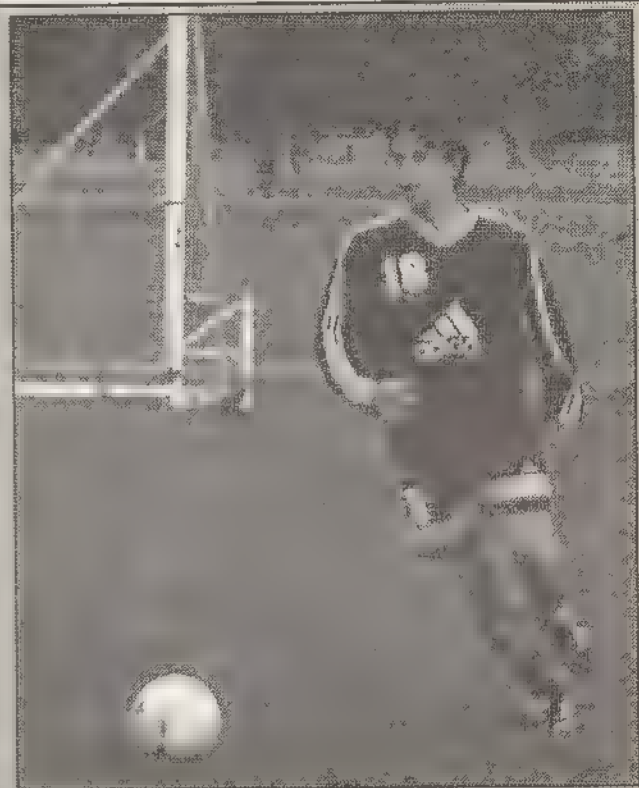
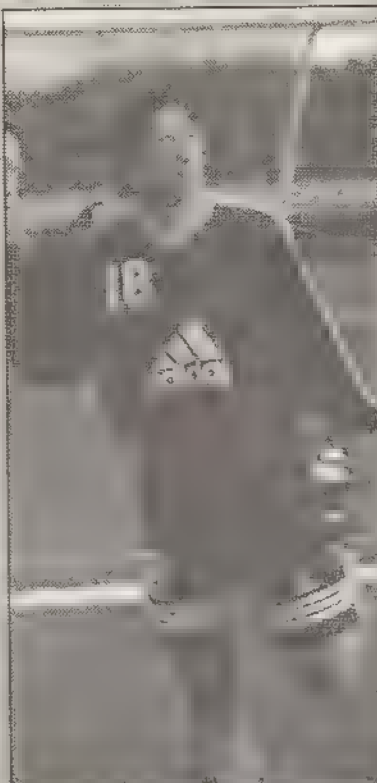
Similar to Tuesday with more emphasis on ball skills
3 hours
Afternoon session sprinting
2 hours
Light weight session upper body (no leg work necessary)
1 hour: **total 6 hours for day.**

FRIDAY

Warm up with short stretching session
Walk through session with set plays, working on free kicks
2 hours
Small sided (5 per team) game
45 minutes
Possible video session depending on opposition

SATURDAY ... GAME DAY

10.45am — report to team headquarters for a light meal — pasta etc
Team talk on opposition
1 hour



KNEE PROBLEMS

By Dr Peter Mitrevski

All of us tend to ignore our knees while they are working smoothly. But when a problem knee causes discomfort and interferes with normal activities, we suddenly realise how important our knees truly are. The following symptoms may be the first warning of knee problems.

1. PAIN — is the most common complaint. It can vary from recurring vague discomfort to sudden, severe pain following an injury.

2. SWELLING — immediately following an injury may be due to bleeding inside the joint. Swelling with clear fluid can come on more slowly and is a sign of some internal knee irritation.

3. LOCKING OR "GIVING WAY" — can be due to a variety of causes, but is often associated with a mechanical problem or a "loose body" in the knee.

4. LIMITED MOVEMENT OR STIFFNESS — can occur at certain times of the day or soon after an injury.

5. GRINDING OR LOCKING — may indicate a roughening of the bone or articular cartilage.

If you have pain as any combination of these symptoms, please see your family doctor or chiropractor as soon as possible.

Knee problems tend to worsen quickly when the knee is not fully used because of injury or disease. Although your doctor/chiropractor usually can diagnose and treat a knee injury problem successfully, only YOU can build strong supporting thigh muscles that can help prevent knee injuries by doing the knee exercises that have been recommended.

COMMON KNEE PROBLEMS

*ligament strains — graded 1,2,3 depending on severity, commonly affecting collateral ligaments and cruciate ligaments.

* muscle strains — quadriceps or hamstring muscles

* meniscus tears — This cartilage fractions as a 'shock-absorber' and can be torn as a result of a twist or injury of the knee.

* Patellar (knee cap) — athletes may develop problems in the gliding mechanism of the patellar or a roughening of the undersurface of the patellar.

* Bursitis — irritation of the fibrous fluid filled sacs, which help reduce friction between bones and tendons.

YOUR CLINICAL EVALUATION

Your doctor/chiropractor can best help you with your knee problem if the cause is diagnosed early. Accurate diagnosis requires a medical history, an examination and sometimes, special studies.

Special tests such as x-rays, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and arthrograms help confirm the diagnosis and rule out any additional problems.

Arthroscopy may be recommended if other studies are not conclusive. The surgeon views the inside of the knee through a lighted tube called an arthroscope, which is equipped with a small TV camera, which relays a magnified image of the knee to a monitor in the operating room.

Once the nature of the problem is determined, a treatment and rehabilitation program can be started.



Dr Mitrevski with Nigeria's Olympic team goalkeeper, Emmanuel Babayaro

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*continued from page nine

Vidmar: "It's difficult to say. When we failed in 1985 everyone said that we would learn from our mistakes next time. In 1989 and 1993 they said the same thing and then we got to Iran, and it still seemed that we hadn't learnt. The game against Iran was a game that should've been over by half time."

"I can't really fault one specific thing. The players played one of their best games for a long time. We may have subconsciously relaxed at 2-0 and let some of their classy players in. It was just one of those things — football is such a funny game."

Diegos: "You must have bittersweet memories of the Socceroos' 1994 World Cup campaign when you and your brother, Tony, combined beautifully to score against Argentina in Sydney, but yet again we missed out on qualifying over two legs. It looks as though we must qualify through South America again. Does the 2002 campaign hold any fears for you?"

Vidmar: "No not at all. The Argentine team we played that finished fifth in the South American group in 1993, even with the inclusion of Maradona, were nothing compared to the team that played at USA 94. I don't think there is anything to be afraid of. We are rapidly improving and have performed well against good opposition. There is no reason why we can't compete favourably with the fifth placed South American team, even if it is Paraguay or Uruguay."

Diegos: "The Four Diegos National Geographic Department pulled out a map of the world just prior to speaking to you and noticed that your career path has taken you from Belgium to Holland to Spain to Switzerland and then to Japan. By our calculations your next playing stop should be Australia. How close are you to returning home to play out your career?"

Vidmar: "That's a tough question. I've got another six months left on my contract with another one year option for the club to take up if it wants to. If it doesn't want to take up the option, I'm quite happy to come home because I've frankly, had enough of playing abroad. I've spent seven years overseas and had a good time but I've always said that I would like to end my career in Australia. So coming home is definitely on the cards."

Diegos: "Our current Olyroo team has some exciting talent at its disposal. You've played with Harry Kewell in the Socceroos team and are currently playing with Hayden Foxe at Hiroshima. You personally played as a 'kindergarten cop' over-age player at the Atlanta Olympics. How good do you think this team can become and would you be

looking to put your hand up to help the kiddies again, as one of the three over-age players at the Sydney Olympics come the year 2000?"

Vidmar: "The Olyroos have got a great side. You mentioned some really good players. Playing at home the boys are going to have the whole country behind them and I'm positive that they are going to do really well. I would love to play but I'm sure that every Aussie player would love to play. The decision on who plays will be entirely up to Raul. He is the coach and he will decide which over-age player can help the team. I haven't retired from the national team. If a player is fit and healthy then you're in with a chance."

Diegos: "Thanks Aurelio. When Freddie Kruger invades your soccer fantasies just think of the Four Diegos and you'll be a World Cup winner in your dreams every time. Adios Amigo!"

Vidmar: "Thanks Diegos. Fantasize about the Four Diegos in my dreams, what will my wife say? Adios Amigos!"

The Four Diegos' are radio celebrities and soccer scribes on Melbourne's Stereo 97.4 FM Saturday 10 am — 12 midday.
E-Mail 'The Diegos' on
FourDiegos@bigpond.com
Until next time ... Adios Amigos!

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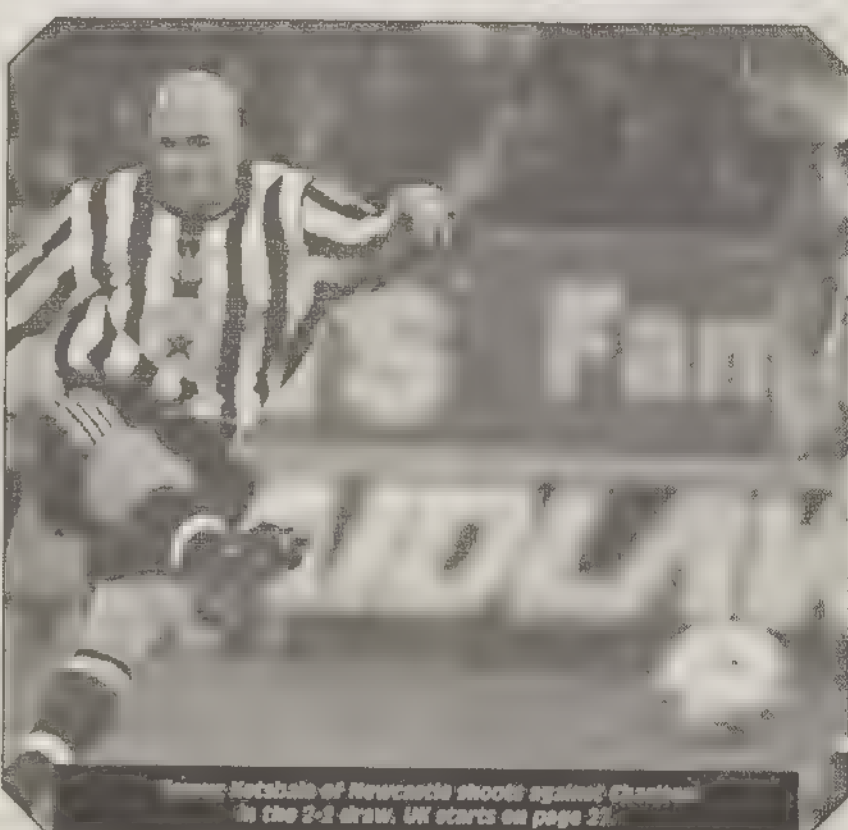
Roberto Carlos of Brazil (left) and
Wendie of the World Champions (right).



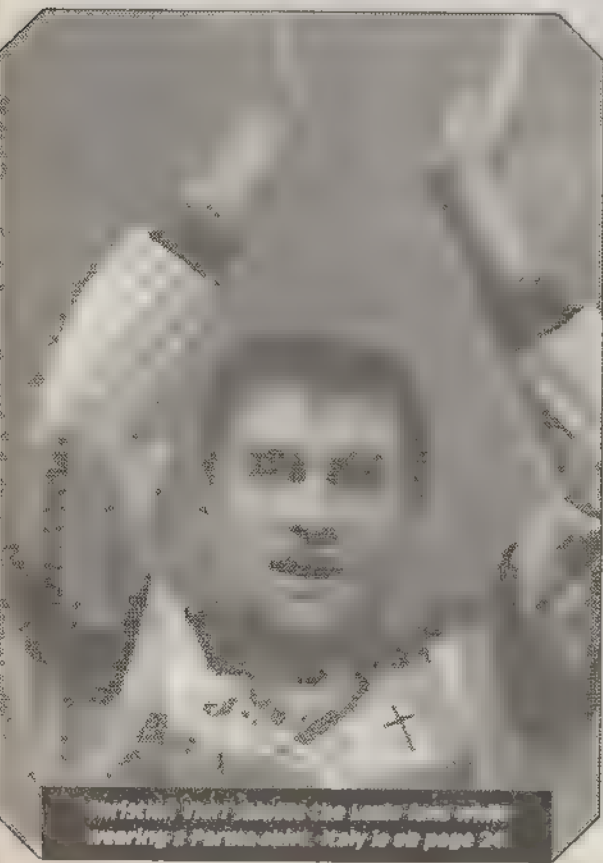
Roberto Carlos of Brazil (left) and
Wendie of the World Champions (right).



Roberto Carlos of Brazil (left) and
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Roberto Carlos of Brazil (left) and
Wendie of the World Champions (right).



Roberto Carlos of Brazil (left) and
Wendie of the World Champions (right).



Roberto Carlos of Brazil (left) and
Wendie of the World Champions (right).

ASIA

TOO MUCH KETUPAT, SAYS OLYMPIC COACH!

In the first of two games against Fiji's Olympic side, the Singapore Lions had a lacklustre 2-0 win last week.

Singapore, heading for the Dunhill Cup tournament in Vietnam this week, played well only in patches and would have probably lost the match had the Fijian strikers been a little sharper.

A number of the Lions looked lethargic and allowed their younger opponents to push them around. Fiji's under-22s also displayed better speed and aggression throughout the match.

The performance, way below the effort that saw Singapore beat Indonesia's pre-Olympic side 3-1 recently, left national coach Vincent Subramaniam fuming.

Said the coach: "It may have been a case of too much ketupat over the three-day Hari Raya Puasa celebrations but that will be no excuse.

"Maybe because they are in the final 18 some of them are taking things easy. That is a mistake. I will not hesitate to drop players who do not perform even on the eve of our departure.

"If I want to bring along passengers then I'd rather take a 19-year-old along."

He added that the next two friendlies would decide the fate of some players. Only midfielder Nazri Nasir and substitutes Tan Kim Leng and Azhar Salleh passed Vincent's test.

The invitation to the Malaysians was the result of organisers re-grouping the teams for the Dunhill Cup. Singapore is now in the same pool as host Vietnam, Iran and Russia.

Group Two will comprise Malaysia, Bulgaria, South Korea and China.

Said national team manager Omar Ibrahim: "It looks like Vietnam has re-drawn the groups so that it can take revenge for its Tiger Cup loss to the Lions."

Singapore took the lead in the 26th minute through a Zulkarnaen Zainal header, but not after Fiji had threatened Lions' custodian Rezal Hassan twice.

It was a slightly better performance after the break when Tan Kim Leng came on for Zulkarnaen to allow Rudy Khairon to move up into midfield and Azhar Salleh taking over from Steven Tan.

Even then, the combination of Rafi Ali and Ahmad Latiff Khamarudin up front failed to click although Latiff came close to scoring at times.

Nazri sealed the Lions' win in the 88th minute.

National striker Ahmad Latiff Khamarudin started the match on the bench for reporting late, came on as a substitute, missed three sitters and then scored the equaliser in Singapore's second game against Fiji, a 1-1 draw late last week.

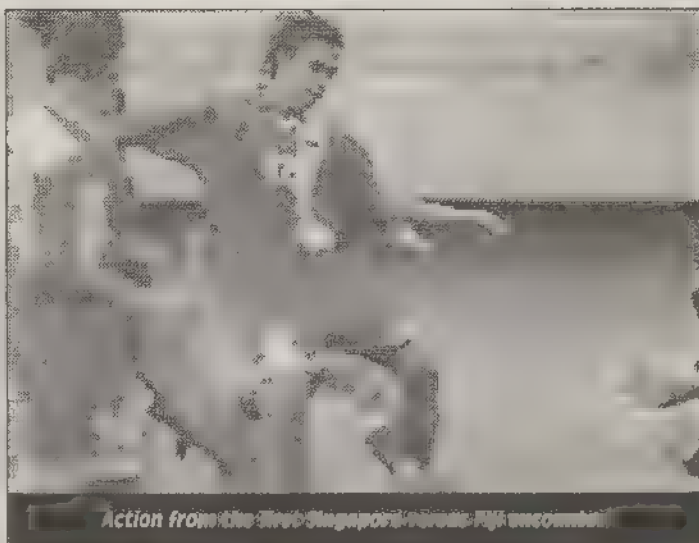
The 19-year-old national serviceman, who also did not show up for Friday morning's training, left the match at the National Stadium with a stern warning from coach Vincent Subramaniam.

Said Vincent: "He has got to change his attitude or I will definitely report this matter his club. There was no excuse to be 30 minutes late for the match.

"He said it was raining but I had 17 other players who were in the same situation and were punctual.

"I also did not accept his reason for his absence on Friday."

Latiff was clearly distracted as he took over from Azhar Baksin in the 35th minute and was the main culprit for the Lions' failure to win the match



Action from the Singapore vs Fiji encounter.

by a convincing margin.

He missed two easy chances with only Fiji goalkeeper Laisania Tuba to beat within 10 minutes of coming on.

His worst miss was in the 84th minute, when he chested down a cross from the left and with the net inviting him only three metres away, he shot straight at Fiji's substitute custodian Shamal Kumar.

Two minutes later, he made amends by side-stepping an Imran Mohamed cross from the right past Shamal.

Said Latiff: "I was not feeling too well on Friday and by the time I woke up, it was already 10am. Training was already over. I have apologised to the coach.

"Today, I was caught in the rain and phoned a team-mate to inform the coach. It was not intentional. I am sorry again. It was also not so good on the field but I am glad I managed the goal."

By then, the Lions, who dominated most of the match, found themselves down to a Isoa Ratuva strike in the 75th minute. The Fijian simply pushed his way through the middle of the defence and slotted the ball inside of Rezal Hassan's left post.

The result did not matter to Vincent, who looked more relaxed than on Thursday, when he threatened to drop some players for an indifferent performance despite the 2-0 win then.

Last week, he had reason to be happy.

The Lions showed more aggression in their tackles, were faster to the ball than their younger opponents, passed it around well and created a number of openings which forwards Rafi Ali, Azhar and Latiff wasted.

Admitted the coach: "In terms of goals, we were a bit of a let-down but the overall performance was a vast improvement over the last match.

"But overall, I have no complaints about the way the team played today. I am pleased that no player really gave me a reason to drop him. Even Latiff is still good enough for the team but like I said, he needs to have a re-look at his attitude."

Reserves Steven Tan and Azhar Salleh did not play while Aide Iskandar reported sick.

In another match at the Jalan Besar Stadium, the Singapore pre-Olympic side was beaten 1-3 by visiting Dutch side Be Quick FC.

Singapore versus Fiji line-up:

Rezal Hassan, Lim Tong Hai (R. Sasikumar, 56th min), S. Subramani, Tan Kim Leng, Imran Mohamed, Rudy Khairon, Nazri Nasir, Zulkarnaen Zainal, Hafizat Jauhari (Mohd Noor Ali, 64th), Rafi Ali, Azhar Baksin (Ahmad Latiff Khamarudin, 35th)

And still on the Olympics, South Korea completed a two-game series win over the Olyroos in Melbourne on Friday night. See match report on page four.

ALAN DAVIDSON BACK IN MALAYSIA

Alan Davidson, installed as Pahang coach this season, is eyeing a double 'double'. That means personally winning the Premier League and Malaysia Cup for the second time.

The former Socceroo helped Pahang to land a double in 1991 in his very first season in Malaysian soccer.

And after having played for five seasons in the M-League, he knows what it takes to spur the former East Coast giants to glory again.

As a player, Davidson always set himself high standards which required self-discipline and personal sacrifices.

Now, as coach, he hopes to instill the same spirit in his players to turn the former kingpins of Malaysian soccer into the premier power in the M-League.

"It is very important for players as individuals and the team as a whole to set high goals for themselves if we (Pahang) are to achieve success," said Davidson, who checked into Kuantan last week.

"As a player, I always set high standards for myself. I had a great desire to taste success.

"Part of my new job will be to instill the same sort of

high standards and targets for the players and the team."

According to Davidson, in terms of training, fitness and skills, there is very little to separate the top guns in the League. The only difference is the desire to succeed.

"The players will have to train and play hard and make sacrifices and success will follow.

"I have been told Pahang have some good soldiers and my task is to mould them into a team who can win battles and lift the championship."

Having played in the M-League from 1991 to 1996, Davidson has had a first-hand experience of local soccer and this will put him in good stead when he coaches the team.

"Though I am a foreigner, I have a good understanding of local players. I am sure we will be able to work together."

Alan Davidson is one of the most respected players in the Australian scene, having played for the Soccerroos, and at club level most notably for South Melbourne.

He also played for legendary coach Brian Clough at Nottingham Forest.

BULGARIANS TO PLAY IN VIETNAM TOURNAMENT

Dunhill Cup organisers have scrambled to secure Bulgaria as a late inclusion following the withdrawal of the Myanmar youth team.

Myanmar had been expected to send its under-18 team to the one-week Cup which begins in HCM City on January 29.

But Myanmar officials have claimed the team would not be expected to play well so it was better not to send them.

National coach Alfred Riedl said he expected Bulgaria to send a mix of national players and outstanding young players.

"They'll be a strong side, not doubt about it," Riedl said last night.

"They've got some players who are with clubs throughout Europe, so they'll have experience and skill."

He said the schedule may be altered.

The inclusion of Bulgaria will prove a challenge to the highly-fancied Iranians who Riedl claimed would be favourites to win.

Iraq defeated Soang Lam Nghe An, SLNA, 3-0 in a friendly match last week.

Eight men, including a police sergeant and a bank manager, appeared in a Hong Kong district court charged with involvement in a bookmaking and bribery case, the territory's anti-graft agency said.

The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) said it brought a total of five charges against the eight Hong Kong men, who all pleaded not guilty.

The eight were police sergeant Tse Ping-wang, 43, assistant bank manager Lau Wing-chi, 49, merchant Lau Wing-kun, 41, transportation worker Ng Man-kin, 28, and unemployed Lau Ka-fai, 43, Chung Hiu-leung 18, Hui Chun-wah, 28, Tsang Lim-cho, 31.

The ICAC said in a statement the alleged bookmaking plan was uncovered during its investigation into six professional Hong Kong footballers for suspected match-fixing, including the rigging of a World Cup qualifier on March 9, 1997.

One of the six footballers has since been sentenced to 12 months jail while a trial of the remaining five is continuing.

Detailing some of the charges, the ICAC said Tse

faced two counts of offering bribes of HK\$100,000 (US\$12,900) each to two police officers between May and June 1998 in return for warnings of police raids on unlawful bookmaking centres.

As for bank manager Lau, he was charged with one count of dealing with HK\$216,000 while knowing that the money was from proceeds of illegal bookmaking, the ICAC said.

All eight, who would stand trial on May 17, were granted cash bail of between HK\$20,000 and HK\$50,000 each and ordered to surrender their travel documents, the ICAC

Esad Sejdic has certainly been in the Singapore Soccer news of late, but fortunately it seems it is working out for the player... finally.

Last week, the knot was unravelled and Sejdic is a happy man. He was cleared to play in the S-League again.

S-League chief executive officer Chris Chan said Sejdic admitted he was unfamiliar with the legal terms of his contract with Woodlands in 1997.

"...he said he was ill-advised by certain parties to claim compensation from the S-League and Woodlands after the S-League rejected his application..."

"He apologised for causing a lot of ill-feelings here."

After going through his letter, the executive board decided he was sincere, said Chan.

Sejdic got the good news after he returned from training with Marine Castle.

He said: "I'm very happy to hear this news."

"...I hope Marine Castle will now consider me strongly for a contract..."

Sejdic, married to a Singaporean, is now applying for permanent resident status. Last week, Sejdic said he will give about \$20,000 of his \$42,000 compensation sum to the S Anthonysamy Trust Fund.

Former Woodlands player S Anthonysamy was paralysed from the neck down in 1996, in a freak accident during a match.

When asked about his pledge yesterday, he said: "...I'll have to discuss with the S-League next week about the exact sum."

"I'm lucky enough just to be able to play football, while Anthonysamy is not that lucky. That's why I have to do this."

LA TINO

RONALDO A FOOTBALL WORKAHOLIC!

Ronaldo once said that he would rather play a game every single day than take a vacation. Perhaps he should take more vacations because a knee injury has curtailed much of his season since the World Cup.

Despite limited playing time this season, Ronaldo has managed to score and set-up a number of important goals for Inter including a game winner to keep them alive in this year's Champions League.

Yet, even Ronaldo admits, on Nike's Brazil Net site, that he is not the player he was last year because of the pain in his knees.

Ironically, Ronaldo's unmatched skill and determination to play with pain could be at the heart of his recent injury. The pain in the tendons of both Ronaldo's knees has been linked to the rigors of Inter's schedule and the malevolent defenses of the Italian league.

With the combination of Serie A, Champions League, and Italian Cup matches, Inter often plays up to three games a week. Many of Inter's games in the Serie A have been against defenders who would rather take their chances with a card or a free-kick than allow Ronaldo to possess the ball. The result has been a growing number of hard fouls against Ronaldo this season.

The combination of dirty tackles and limited rest has Ronaldo down but not out. For a player born to score goals, the recent need to rest and heal hasn't been easy.

However, Ronaldo has developed a new found deter-

mination to train even harder in order to get healthy, fit, and back on the field.

In his effort to return to top form and prove to everyone that his injury is not permanent, Ronaldo has enlisted the services of his old doctor and physiotherapist from Brasil.

The same doctor helped Ronaldo recover from a knee injury suffered in 1996 while playing for PSV Eindhoven in Holland.

Ronaldo's road to recovery is a long and often boring one which requires up to three training sessions a day — he knows that hard work is all a part of being a professional footballer in the world's most prestigious league. Recently, when the players at Inter Milan were given the day-off, Ronaldo chose instead to train twice.

Ronaldo has never been one to slow down for anything or anyone; Nike's Brazil Net site asked him about his training routine at Inter. Compare this to Harry Kewell's at Leeds (page 18).

What's a typical day like at Inter Milan?

"I wake up at 9 a.m. to be at the Inter training complex by 10 a.m.

"Training starts at 10:30 a.m., we usually swim for one and a half hours. Then we take a shower and have lunch with the team at the training complex at 1 p.m. After lunch, you can spend about one hour in your room. I usually surf the Internet, reading Brazilian papers.

"At 2:30 p.m. there is another training session (usual-

ly spent riding the exercise bike). After this training session, I come home around 7 p.m.

In the evening, I like to be home with Susana and have dinner with her. I love Italian food — pasta with pomodoro is my favorite — but I also like Brazilian food.

"In the evenings we talk, listen to music, read, or watch some TV. I normally go to bed around 11 p.m. to be fit again the next morning.

"However, to get back in shape as soon as possible, I am now also training in the evenings."

Do you think Inter can win the Serie A?

"It is a very tough competition and almost any team can beat the other team. Although we have lost some points in the season so far, I still think we can win the scudetto this year. I think Juventus will be the biggest competition for Inter to win the league this year."

What about the Champions League?

I still think we can win this competition but there are a lot of very good teams participating in this league."



HAVELANGE NAMED IN 92 OLYMPICS BRIBERY

The United States makes its first trip to Bolivia and has never beaten the South American nation in five contests dating to 1993 (0-2-3). Bolivia won the last meeting 2-0 in the 1996 U.S. Cup at Washington, D.C.

In the past year, the United States was 23rd and Bolivia 61st in the FIFA world rankings.

Goalkeepers — Tony Meola (New York/New Jersey), Tom Presthus (D.C.) Defenders — Jeff Agoos (D.C.), Gregg Berhalter (Cambuur Leeuwarden, Netherlands), C.J. Brown (Chicago), Robin Fraser (Los Angeles), Eddie Pope (D.C.), Richie Williams (D.C.)

Midfielders — Chris Armas (Chicago), Imad Baba (New England), Cobi Jones (Los Angeles), Eddie Lewis (San Jose), Clint Mathis (Los Angeles), Claudio Reyna (VfL Wolfsburg, Germany)

Forwards — Jovan Kirovski (Fortuna Cologne, Germany), Roy Lassiter (D.C.), Brian McBride (Columbus), Joe-Max Moore (New England).

Homesick Brazilian star-forward Edmundo may leave Fiorentina at the end of the current season, cutting short his contract with the Italian soccer league leader, the player's agent said.

"Edmundo would hardly stay with Fiorentina next

season," said Pedrinho Vincencote, adding that the player wants to return home.

Vincencote, Edmundo's agent, said he travelled to Florence last week to help the player overcome his current problems, ranging from homesickness to difficult relations with some teammates.

Edmundo and Argentine striker Gabriel Batistuta have been instrumental to Fiorentina's leadership in the current Serie A campaign.

Edmundo's contract with the Florentine club, which is owned by movie tycoon Vittorio Cecchi Gori, expires in 2001.

However a £13 million rescission clause would allow the 27-year-old forward to cut his contract short and return to Brazil.

Edmundo joined Fiorentina last year, moving from Vasco da Gama.

Joao Havelange of Brazil, one of the International Olympic Committee's longest-serving members, accepted lavish treatment by Dutch officials trying to bring the 1992 Games to Amsterdam, a newspaper has reported in Holland.

De Telegraaf said Havelange was among numerous IOC members who were wined and dined, given expensive gifts and escorted regularly to exclusive

brothels in the Dutch capital.

The newspaper did not specify the treatment the 82-year-old Brazilian industrialist received, but quoted a former Amsterdam organizer as saying he "went overboard."

"I remember it very well because he had special wishes — wishes which were in conflict with the IOC laws," said Pter Kronenberg, who headed the press office of the Amsterdam Olympic Games 1992 Foundation.

Among the gifts were diamonds, bicycles, sports articles, Delft blue porcelain, paintings and exclusive art books, De Telegraaf said, citing former foundation members it did not identify.

"If someone asked for a VCR or a television set, he just got it," it quoted an unidentified former

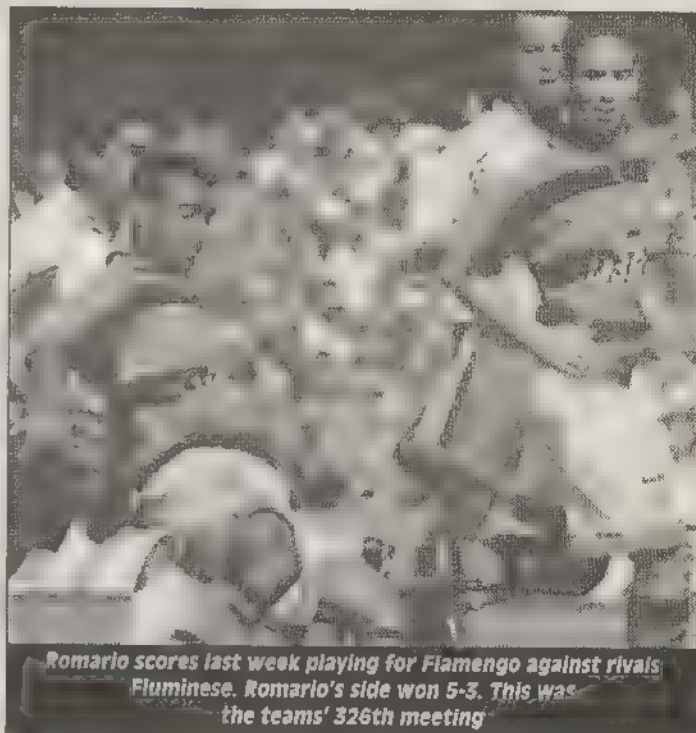
Amsterdam Games official as saying.

An IOC member since 1963 and a former president of FIFA, international soccer's governing body, Havelange up to now has not been implicated in the widening Olympics bribery scandal stemming from Salt Lake City's winning bid for the 2002 Winter Games.

Allegations that sex was used to get the 1992 Games to Amsterdam first surfaced earlier this week from Prince Frederic von Saxe-Lauenberg, a member of the Pierre de Coubertin International Committee, an Olympics promotional group.

"A member of the foundation almost had a day job preparing these little outings, and it happened on a very wide scale," De Telegraaf quoted another unidentified former official as saying.

The newspaper said top officials of major international sports federations also could count on very lavish treatment in Amsterdam, and that African IOC members figured prominently among those who were pampered.



Romario scores last week playing for Flamengo against rivals Fluminense. Romario's side won 5-3. This was the teams' 326th meeting.

UNDER 20 QUALIFYING RESULTS

Argentina 2 Brazil 1
(half-time 1-0).

Scorers:

Argentina: Luciano Galletti (44),
Ernesto Farnas (87)

Brazil: Edu (67)

Paraguay 3 Chile 2
(half-time 2-1)

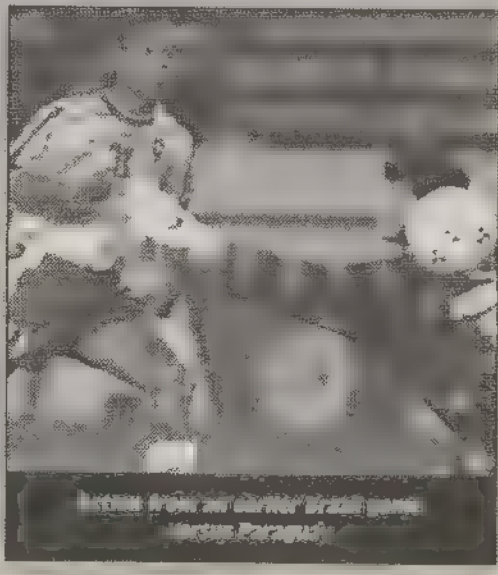
Scorers:

Paraguay: Nelson Vera (34, 34),
Roque Santa Cruz (65)

Chile: David Pizarro (26),

Milovan Minosevic (75)

Uruguay and Peru drew 0-0.



AFRICA

ALGERIAN STAR SKIPS SPURS, AJAX BEATS SOUTH AFRICAN SIDES

Dutch stars Ajax Amsterdam completed a two-match tour of South Africa with a 3-2 victory over a Cape Town selection at Athlone Stadium on Wednesday.

Jasper Gronkjaer put the four-time European Cup holders ahead after two minutes and former South Africa striker Grant Young levelled just before half-time.

Gronkjaer struck again early in the second-half and Dean Gorre added a third before substitute Carlo Scott set up a thrilling finish by scoring off an intercept.

Ajax, who spent 10 days in the coastal city preparing for the second-half of the Dutch season, trounced another Cape combination 5-0 in their opening match.

Cameroon, under a new coach Pierre Le Chantre, and with a team composed entirely of professional players for the first time, played their first game together last weekend, in this new era for the Lions.

"The whole nation is behind you," Iya Mohamed, new president of the FIFA-nominated executive committee of the Cameroon Football Federation (FECAFOOT), told the squad in a letter made public.

FECAFOOT was briefly suspended by FIFA, world soccer's governing body, earlier this month when Cameroon's sports minister attached conditions to the setting-up of the committee, imposed by FIFA after a period of turmoil in Cameroon soccer.

The minister, Joseph Owona, was overruled by Prime Minister Peter Musonge Mafany and Cameroon was reinstated, clearing the way for it to play Eritrea.

Le Chantre took a squad of 19 players to Beziers in southern France to train for the match. The team will be the first Indomitable Lions selection that does not include amateurs, officials said.

Le Chantre's appointment, seven months after Claude Le Roy departed after the World Cup finals, has inspired little enthusiasm in Cameroon.

He is a personal friend of Le Roy, who recommended him, officials said.

John Moeti, who captained South Africa in its last international, was withdrawn from the squad last week after being suspended by his club Orlando Pirates.

He had staged a one-man strike over unpaid wages in a league match 10 days ago and his club are due to charge him with misconduct today (Tuesday Jan 26).

South African officials said they had withdrawn Moeti from the national squad to prevent the controversy dogging preparations for the qualifier which played in Carepipe last weekend.

He was replaced by the uncapped Godfrey Sapula.

Tottenham were enraged when their North African star Moussa Saib ran away to play for Algeria without club permission.

Saib's stuttering career in England may be over after he decided to play truant from his long-term rehabilitation programme.

Spurs had warned Algeria that the midfielder, who captains the national side, was still not fit enough to play senior football.

Yet, still he flew out of London in defiance of manager George Graham's orders to join his country's squad for a friendly against Tunisia.

Graham said: "We have told the Algerians that he's not fit and we have no option but to consider serious disciplinary action." Saib, a £2.3million signing by Graham's predecessor Christian Gross from Auxerre 11 months ago, has been troubled by a chronic back injury since his arrival at White Hart Lane.

His last appearance was as a substitute in the 3-0 home defeat by Middlesbrough on September 13.

Although he still has only 13 first-team appearances to his credit, Spurs were prepared to persevere with complex medical treatment in deference to the 29-year-old's exciting ball skills.

After one major operation, Saib has recently managed a match and a half in the reserves and he had been due to play against Cambridge in a postponed match.

His disappearance will have put back that recuperation and Saib is not expected back in London until 24 hours before tomorrow night's (Wed) Wednesday's Worthington Cup semi-final against Wimbledon... if at all.

The most likely outcome is that Spurs will transfer him and he will be sold back to French football.



Action from the Cape Town Spurs v Ajax friendly.

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BOTSWANA AND NIGERIA SQUADS NAMED

Nigeria coach Louis Libregis has named a 23-man squad for the Africa Cup of Nations tournament in Tunisia. The squad includes several players who have been in the national team for some time, including goalkeeper Emmanuel Emenike, defender Patrick Okeke, and forward Victor Ikpeba.

The squad also includes several players who have been in the national team for some time, including goalkeeper Emmanuel Emenike, defender Patrick Okeke, and forward Victor Ikpeba. The squad is expected to be announced in the coming days.

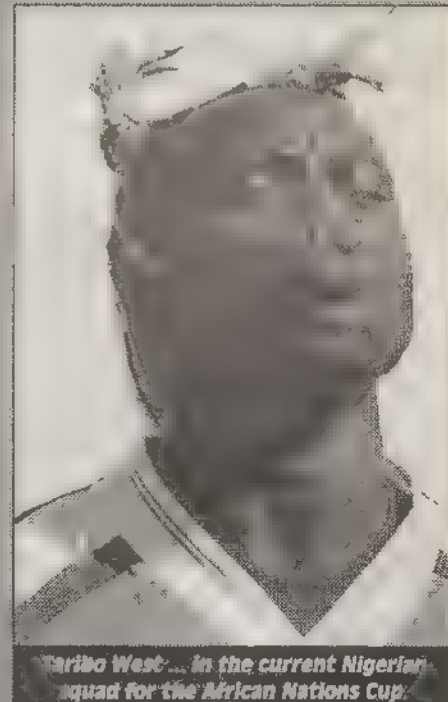
Libregis said the rift was now over, adding that 18 of the invited professional foreign-based players had formally written that they would honour the national call.

Botswana have recalled several experienced players in the 25-man squad named for next month's Cosata Castle Cup first round match against South

Africa. The squad includes several players who have been in the national team for some time, including goalkeeper Emmanuel Emenike, defender Patrick Okeke, and forward Victor Ikpeba. The squad is expected to be announced in the coming days.

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Midfielders: Ithemeng Duker (Dynamos, South Africa), William Kasile (Mochudi Centre Chiefs), Barney Maman (Mogodishane Fighters), Dintle Mngomezisi (Police XI), Donald Mopako (Township Rollers), Masogo Nchabane (Fighters), Pro Paul (Botswana Defence Force XI), Innocent Ranku (Notwane), Mmoloki Sechele (Taffie FC).



Yaribo West... in the current Nigerian squad for the African Nations Cup.

Strikers: Disang Edwin (Mogodishane Fighters), Tshetiso Motwanyiwa (Mochudi Centre Chiefs), Oliver Fikali (Police XI), Diphetogo Selotwane (Gaborone United), Thazo Tiwayi (Notwane).

SCANDINAVIA VIA

BRANN BERGEN IN FOCUS

IN THE BEGINNING

The sportsclubs of Bergen were few in the beginning of this century. The working class worked 10 hours a day six days a week.

There was not much energy left for activities like sport. But at some point, the labour unions managed to introduce the eight hour workday six days a week.

Now the working class had some energy to spare. And when unemployment struck, people had even more time to spare! So in the early days of this century, many sportsclubs for the workers were founded.

Rowing and sailing, wrestling and other primitive sports got their clubs, but also this new and exciting game called football (or 'fotbold' as it would be named in those days in Norway. Fotbold is a danish word for football, which we now call it).

New clubs started all over the city, and they were all tied to some small area of the city. Not so with Sportsklubben Brann. Nor was it a working class club!

Brann was dominated by merchants and people with higher education. And with connections, visionary leadership and money from the financial bonanza in Bergen during World War I, the club very quickly rose to national level.

Ever since the start Brann has kept its strong hold on the citizens of Bergen. In 1909, one year old Brann (and Viking) gathered 1,000 spectators in Stavanger, a city south of Bergen.

BRANN BERGEN ON FIRE!

Brann play in with red outfits. Brann is the Norwegian word for 'fire' (hence the colour). This is quite appropriate for a team from Bergen, where the inhabitants are known to have a rather sparkling temperament.

Both the name and the colour are very good choices! One of Brann's slogans can be translated as 'My heart is on Fire!' or in Norwegian: 'Mitt hjerte står i Brann!' And

again, it is remarkable that Brann in a shrewd way has managed to position themselves inside the hearts of 220,000 people.

KNIKSEN

The most outstanding, artistic player of all times in Norway played for Brann. Kniksen was truly unique and his national team debut was at the age of 17!

Thousands of spectators came to see even the junior national team with Kniksen before he was moved to the full national team. His technique was way ahead of his time and brought him a professional career in Scotland in the sixties.

Playing in Scotland was not easy for the technical wizard from Bergen. He was brought down again and again by frustrated opponents because that was the only way to stop him.

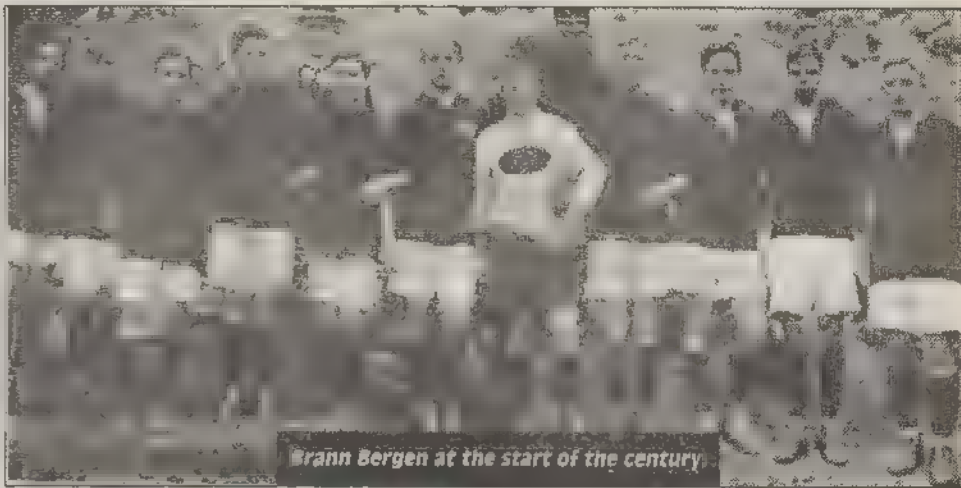
He had legs so filled with bruises and yellow and blue marks, that they looked like maps of Europe! Injuries and bad management contributed to his ill-fated career and Kniksen never got the success that he deserved.

In those days, there were no agents to look after a player and make the right career choices. With his talents Kniksen should have played further south in Europe, not in Hearts of Middlesbrough.

But after his death (he died while training at Brann Stadium, wearing one of his national team shirts), the Norwegian Football Association founded the Kniksen Award, which is given to the best Norwegian players at the end of every season.

Kniksen was a modest man outside the turf. But nevertheless, the citizens of Bergen collected money and made him end up as a statue.

So there he is, the dribble king of Norway, in bronze, in the park outside 'Stadion'. His spirit will forever be connected to his homeground and the citizens of Bergen will never forget his magic.



Brann Bergen at the start of the century

JOCKE, THE BRONZE MEDALIST

FLOONAAALDO

A Swedish co-manager named 'Kalle' Björklund came to Bergen, and with him, his son. Kalle had been a Swedish international attending to world cups and more in his younger days.

But his son was not more than 18 years old and not very well known. He trained with Brann's junior team. But his career was soon to go like a rocket!

In short time he had his debut for the A-team, established himself as the quickest and toughest defender in the kingdom, and news travelled all the way back to Sweden.

To make the story short: In the 1994 World Cup, Jocke won a bronze medal with Sweden. After his career start-up in Brann, he went to IFK Gothenburg, Vizenza (Italian Serie A) and finally to Glasgow Rangers.

The youngest of the three great Brann players of all time, left Brann in July 1997. He has now moved to London and Chelsea for the next five years.

Flo shot himself to the Brann hall of fame in May last year, when he almost singlehandedly stopped World Champion and 40-in-a-row-without-loss Brazil with a bang!

OK, it was a friendly, but Brazil did NOT intend to lose that match, and Flo was magic. He scored two goals and assisted on one, and has been called Floonaaaldoo ever since.

Flo's last match for Brann, on July 13 proved also to be of the legendary sort. He scored three times and his final kick for the club was a knockout drive from 25 meters right into the corner of goal.

People refused to leave the stadium, they just kept on clapping their hands!

Flo(24) is a player with world class quality as Chelsea and Vialli are now finding out.

FLO IN CONTROVERSY, NORWAY DRAWS 3-3

Chelsea striker Tore Andre Flo was at the centre of a bitter row after it was claimed he had jumped a queue to undergo a vital ankle operation.

The 25-year-old Norway international, who earns a reputed £10,000 a week, returned to his homeland because he wanted treatment on the injury to be carried out by respected surgeon Dr Trygve Kase.

Chelsea were keen to have their prolific scorer back in action as soon as possible and Flo underwent the intricate ligament and cartilage operation at the Ostfold Hospital, in Moss, near Oslo, on January 6.

But patients who had been waiting up to six months for vital surgery on the Norwegian national health service became enraged when it emerged that Flo had apparently been given preferential treatment and his operation carried out within just seven hours of arriving at the hospital.

They believed he had been treated favourably because of his status as a professional footballer and inundated Norwegian newspapers, television and radio stations with furious protests.

The furore reached such a peak that it has emerged that Flo offered to pay for the £1,500 treatment if it would appease the angry public — but the payment was declined.

The controversial episode made headline news in Norway and Dr Kase, who also looks after the Norway national side, was obliged to defend the decision publicly.

He told the media: 'I can understand why the patients who have been waiting for treatment have reacted in this way and why they are angry. But

no-one has had to wait longer for an operation because of this situation.'

The patients obviously felt that Tore Andre received special treatment because of his high-profile status but I must state that this was not the case at all.

'We made space and time for him after we had dealt with the other patients at the end of the day, so we did not delay anyone else who was waiting for an operation.'

'In Norway, there are waiting lists for planned surgery but there are no queues for acute surgery, which is the category Tore Andre's injury fell into.'

'His injury was serious and required surgery in a hurry. We made special time for him but this is something that is done for common people, right down to Mr and Mrs Smith on the street.'

It is true that Tore Andre offered to pay for the operation but it was not felt that this was necessary because the hospital management were happy with the way everything was done.'

Hilde Braatner Johansen, speaking on behalf of the patients, said: 'I can understand their concern because hospitals, in general, should try to take care of the waiting patients first.'

Sources in Norway revealed that Flo, who has remained in London this week to work on his fitness while his team-mates train in Tenerife, has been upset at the outcry.

Dr Kase spoke with him and revealed he was making good progress in a bid to be back in action within six weeks.



Norway's Olav Lundevold (No. 18) playing against Estonia

the 55th minute and John Carew appeared to have put the match beyond Estonia after 71 minutes with a close range header.

But goalkeeper Frode Grodas gave away a penalty when he fouled Viktor Alonen.

Martin Reim converted the spot kick.

Estonia then hit Norway with two late strikes by substitute Indrek Zelinski in the 80th and 88th minutes.

Norway coach Nils Johan Semb said: 'It looked as if we were heading for an easy win, but we gave away a silly goal and then another and the third was clearly offside.'

Awards were made to top Israeli Arab players in a halftime ceremony.

'This is certainly a great honour for our town. The IFA have shown their appreciation by bringing this match to us,' said Umri al Fahm mayor or Sheikh Rayed Salah.



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Norway and Estonia drew 3-3 on Friday in the first international to be held in an Israeli Arab town.

The friendly, part of a triangular tournament celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Israel F.A. (IFA), was billed as a salute by the national governing body to Israel's Arab sector.

Norway clinched overall victory after beating Israel 1-0 earlier. The hosts defeated Estonia 7-0 in the opening match.

Norway led 3-0 then allowed Estonia back into the game in the last 16 minutes.

Stale Solbakken converted Norway's early superiority into goals in the 20th minute when he stabbed the ball in from close range from a corner.

Norway had more chances to score in the first half, most notably when Egil Ostenstad missed a gaping goal in the 26th minute.

Roar Strand beat Estonian goalkeeper Toomas Tuhver in

ITALY

LAZIO GO TOP, BUT NOT FOR LONG!

Lazio 4 Piacenza 1

In Rome, Piacenza were drawing 1-1 after substitute Renato Buso's goal, but Salas responded two minutes later to the delight of the 50,000 spectators. The Chilean striker, bed ridden with the flu and a fever since Thursday, chested down Christian Vieri's cross and fired in from seven yards for his sixth goal at home and ninth overall.

Stankovic netted a header in the 77th and Mancini added his eighth goal of the season five minutes later for Lazio.

SS Lazio had taken the lead 10 minutes into the game, when Yugoslav defender Simsa Mihajlovic rocketed a free kick that rattled off both posts before hitting the net. The hosts then dropped back into a defensive stance, until Buso's goal seemed to wake them.

Vicenza 0 Parma 0

In Vicenza, Parma waited until late in the game to insert a third striker and paid for its conservative approach. Vicenza, which has scored a league-low 10 goals, appeared content to settle for the draw, which leaves it 15th in the standings.

Inter 5 Cagliari 1

In Milan, Roberto Muzzi's 12th goal, off a rebound, put Cagliari ahead after three minutes of play. But the hosts took control after O'Neill's expulsion.

Baggio scored off a free kick in the 30th minute, and his goal in the 75th was the 155th of his career, tying him with Lazio's Mancini. Someone scored with headers in the 67th and 70th, after Croat defender Dario Simic had netted his first goal for Inter in the 61st.

Brazilian star Ronaldo did not play.

Juventus 2 Perugia 1

In Turin, Fonseca and Zidane each provided the assist for the other's goal to rally Juventus. Perugia went up 1-0 after 20 minutes via a goal by new signing Ecuadorian striker Juan Kavedes.

Salernitana 2 Roma 1

On the Amalfi Coast in Salerno, Bernardini scored from a penalty kick in the 11th minute after Giampaolo was fouled by Roma 'keeper Michael Konsel, and Giampaolo made it 2-0 for Salernitana in the 54th.

Luigi Di Biagio's header in the 77th gave Roma hope for salvaging a draw, but another goal never arrived. Roma saw its road record drop to 0-4-5.

Sampdoria 1 Udinese 1

In Genoa, Argentine striker Ariel Ortega spun in a 25-yard free kick in the 51st minute to lift Sampdoria, and the hosts held on despite playing the final half-hour with 10 players after Yugoslav defender Nenad Sakic was sent off. Argentina's Roberto Carlos Sosa scored for Udinese three minutes after kick-off.

Venezia 2 Bari 1

In Venice, Tuta headed in a free kick in the 90th minute, moving Venezia out of the relegation zone. Veteran Filippo Maniero hit Venezia's opening goal in the eighth minute, while Diego De Ascentis responded for Bari.

Empoli 0 Fiorentina 3

Homesick Brazilian Edmundo inspired Fiorentina on Sunday and restored the league leaders' three-point advantage over Lazio in Serie A.



Lazio's Paul Okon: leaving soon?

German Jorg Heinrich broke the goalless stalemate in the 78th minute before Edmundo took over, setting up Rui Costa for his side's second in the 81st and dribbling half the length of the pitch to add a third two minutes later.

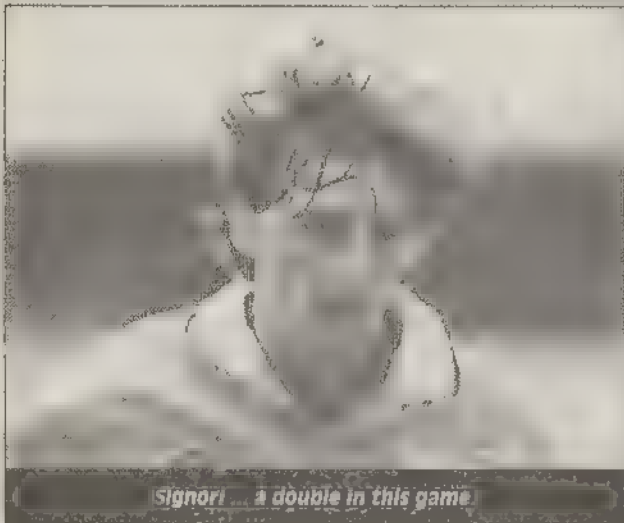
AC MILAN SHOW ITS CLASS IN BOLOGNA

At the Dall'Ara stadium the visiting AC Milan showed a glimpse of past glories as they outshone the home side, Bologna, three goals to two.

Zaccheroni began by shuffling the cards with his insertion of Morfeo in the 10th instead of the expected Gunz.

Milan, wearing a new strip of white shirts and red socks, immediately took on the Bolognese assault. In the 4th minute Binotto looked for a teammate in the area: Costacurra was ready and deflected it out for a corner. Signori shot from the corner, but Abbiati punched it away.

One minute later Andersson hit the post to Abbiati's left with a great flying right-footer. Bologna replied to Milan's with fast, thrusting counterattacks. In the 10th minute the Milanese keeper had to get his fists in front of a slightly too-central free kick by Mangone.



Signori... a double in this game

Straight afterwards Milan had a goal by Bierhoff disallowed.

A handball by Ambrosini on the right-hand corner of the area was contested by the Milanese, but for Boriello it was a free kick. Signori's shot was a powerful grass-cutter which went in at Abbiati's far post: 1-0.

Milan found the strength to come back and equalized in the 21st. Guglielminetto picked up a ball that was heading out of play, came back in level with the six yard box and found the opposite corner brilliantly for 1-1.

The red-and-black put their collective foot on the accelerator and in the 25th minute Antonoli had to come out to block an attempt by Bierhoff.

The Bolognese keeper was called into action again in the 27th minute when Albertini shot from the centre of the edge of the box. In the 31st Bologna had a combination of Signori, Andersson and Fontolan which was headed out by Fontolan.

In the 32nd there was yet another splendid touch by Leonardo for the unmarked Bierhoff in the centre of the area, who lost balance and merely grazed the ball.

Signori again in the 35th minute with a blazing right-footer which, from an excellent position, ended up on the outside of the net just before committing Abbiati who had to stretch to block the ball.

It was an alarm signal, because in the 43rd minute Signori, after the "tower" of Andersson and a touch by Fontolan, co-ordinated a flying left-footer from the edge of the area and beat Abbiati for the second time.

In the 3rd minute of the second stanza, Fontolan came down the left wing, got into the area and took aim, but his diagonal shot went out of play. In the 7th minute Bierhoff took off late after a suggestion from Leonardo and was stopped by Antonoli.

Signori then picked up Andersson who turned in the middle of the area

and ignobly wasted the chance.

In the 8th minute Milan equalized. Albertini touched on for Morfeo, and the former Atalanta player hit the ball on the move and beat Antonoli with a diagonal shot which took a little deflection off Mangone: it was 2-2 and everything to play for: this is what football is all about.

Milan took the reins of the match firmly in hand and shut Bologna out. In the 15th Bierhoff threw to the winds the chance of taking the lead; his diagonal shot just grazed the post to Antonoli's right.

In the 19th minute Guly fed the German, who was in the middle of the area ready with a header, but the ball was a bit too high. In the 26th minute Leonardo's Brazilian genius came aight: he stopped a ball he wasn't expecting with his heel and tried a left-foot shot which just stroked the post (evoking memories of Mancini's unbelievable goal shown on SBS's On the Ball last Friday).

In the 28th minute Cuppioli on the edge of the box saw Abbiati out of his goal, but couldn't find the goalmouth.

Meanwhile Milan continued with their feast of errors. In the 30th minute Ziege's shot was deflected by Albertini; Antonoli did well with an instinctive save.

Then Leonardo shot from the penalty spot and the ball went over the crossbar.

In the 31st minute Zaccheroni called the sixteen-year-old Mohammed who came on in place of the South American. In the 40th minute Abbiati earned his stripes: Fontolan served Andersson in the area. The Swedish star brought the best out in the Bologna keeper.

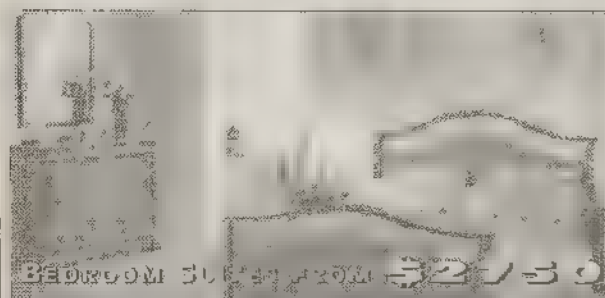
In the 45th minute there was a free kick on the edge of the box for the black-and-reds. It was taken twice. N'Gotty came from behind and found the right angle with a rocket to the left of Antonoli: Bologna 2, A.C. Milan 3.

What a finish, what a game!



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EUROPE

DESAILLY LOOKS TO 2002, IRISH BUILD SUPER-STADIUM

Chelsea defender Marcel Desailly has set his sights on helping France defend the World Cup in 2002 before winding down his career.

But he warned Chelsea fans that if he helps the Londoners to the premier league title in May he might seek a new club challenge next season.

"My career is totally planned in relation to the World Cup of 2002," said the 30-year-old central defender.

"It is an enormous motivation, although there is Euro 2000 first," he told the sports daily L'Equipe in an interview published on Tuesday.

"Our generation of 67, 68, 69 will be right into Euro 2000," he said referring to teammates of similar age such as his Chelsea defensive partner Frank Leboeuf, France skipper Didier Deschamps and Youri Djorkaeff.

"After that, our World Cup future is down entirely to us. If in the European championship you win the title or reach the final or a semi-final with panache, you can start again," he said.

"But if it is a total failure, people - the next coach, or the same one will maybe want to move on."

Desailly could win the league championship in a third country if premier league leaders Chelsea take the English title after his successes with Olympique Marseille in France and AC Milan in Italy.

The defender, who signed a four year contract last summer, said: "If we win the title with Chelsea at the end of the season I could spring a surprise."

"If I'm a champion of England, I could very well head for Spain, or France."

"But if I do come back one day to France, it will be during this four year period (up to the 2002 World Cup), while I'm still totally committed, not afterwards," he said.

Desailly said he would find it challenging to help a big club in trouble, like ailing Paris St Germain.

Iran, the United States and Northern Ireland were jointly awarded FIFA's 1998 Fair Play prize.

World soccer's governing body gave the award to Iran and the United States for their show of sportsmanship in a highly charged World Cup match in Lyon on June 21.

The Northern Ireland Football Association was awarded a share of the prize for their "continuing efforts to reunite the Catholic and Protestant communities," FIFA said in a statement.

FIFA praised the fact that on Nov. 30, a match between Cliftonville and Linfield, clubs identified as being on either side of the sectarian divide, took place at Cliftonville's Solitude Stadium for the first time in almost 30 years.

FIFA President Sepp Blatter said the award to the three was proof of soccer's role as a mediating force.

"In the middle of the World Cup the Iranians and the Americans provided a powerful demonstration of the effects of fair play when they not only joined in the spirit of FIFA's Fair Play Day on June 21 by posing together for the photographers, before their match in Lyon, but also exchanged flowers and gifts among the players," Blatter said.

"The award, like that to Northern Ireland, is also intended to be symbolic for many other countries which have found themselves in a comparable situation."

The awards will be presented at the World Player of the Year gala in Barcelona on next week (Feb. 1).

The Football Association of Ireland (FAI) announced plans on to build a 45,000-seat, 65 million Irish pound international soccer stadium in southwest Dublin.

The stadium, to be called "The Arena", will have a removable, natural grass pitch and a retractable roof to accommodate sporting or cultural events, indoor and outdoor, the FAI said.

"The Arena will be truly a venue with a difference because of its unique features," FAI Chief Executive Bernard O'Byrne said.

"We have gone to great lengths to ensure that it is going to be a venue which is on a par if not better than any other such venue anywhere in the world."

Big sporting events in Dublin, including international soccer matches, are currently played at the rugby union stadium at Lansdowne Road. A second stadium at Croke Park is dedicated to Ireland's traditional Gaelic Games.

O'Byrne said work on The Arena project had taken 18 months, but that it felt "more like 18 years."

"Everybody involved in Irish football has been waiting many, many years for this, and today is the day," he added.



Desailly is fully committed to France's defence of the World Cup in 2002.

The FAI hopes to host its first international soccer match in September or October 2001.

The Arena, 20 miles (32 km) from Dublin's international airport, will be able to host other sports including rugby, tennis, showjumping, boxing and ice hockey as well as non-sporting events ranging from entertainment to trade shows.

The FAI's partners in the project include German banking giant Deutsche Bank and world-leading promoter International Management Group (IMG).

The Arena will be built by an Irish subsidiary of Dutch construction firm Hochtief Beton Groep NV (HBG) which built a similar stadium in The Netherlands.

Valladolid, which was told recently it must forfeit its match against Real Betis for briefly fielding too many foreign players, appealed to the Spanish football federation (RFEF).

The RFEF's competitions committee decided last week to change a 2-1 home victory for Valladolid in the game played on January 10 to a 3-0 defeat.

The club were also fined half a million pesetas (\$3,500) and coach Sergio Kresic banned for two months.

Valladolid swapped Colombian midfielder Harold Lozano for the injured Jose Luis Santamaria in the 18th minute, leaving them with five non-European Union players on the pitch, one more than the maximum allowed.

Kresic corrected the mistake six minutes later, sending on Spaniard Alberto Lopez in place of Lozano.

Valladolid officials are hoping they can persuade the RFEF that the six-minute transgression of the rules had no bearing on the result.

Schalke 04 has suffered a blow as it was revealed Czech international midfielder Radek Latal will miss the rest of the season after undergoing knee surgery.

The 29-year-old was part of the Czech squad that reached the Euro '96 final, had the operation after tearing ligaments in his left knee.

Feyenoord came away from a match against Galatasaray feeling robbed after thieves stole their mobile phones and passports from the changing rooms. Burglars cut through iron bars to get in during the first half and also stole watches and money belonging to the Feyenoord players, Anatolian news agency reported.

The Feyenoord team discovered the theft at halftime of Wednesday's match and the second half was delayed for 20 minutes while they decided whether to continue.

They played on to draw 2-2 with Galatasaray. The match was part of a three-way friendly tournament with Borussia Dortmund.

'HAUGHTY AND DETESTABLE' VAN GAAL FIGHTS CATALAN MEDIA

Under-fire Barcelona coach Louis Van Gaal was fiercely criticised in the Catalan media after getting involved in a political row, following the signing of Holland internationals Frank and Ronald De Boer from Ajax of Amsterdam.

The reigning Spanish champions now have eight Dutch players on the staff, alongside Van Gaal and two of his assistants, bringing the total number of Dutch personnel to 11 in a club that is seen as a standard bearer for the Catalan identity.

The club has been derided in the Spanish media as Ajax Barcelona and Hollandbarca.

President of the Catalan autonomous government Jordi Pujol, while stressing it was not his job to tell Barcelona who to buy, said he hoped the club would sign more Catalan players.

Van Gaal, clearly unhappy at the criticism, hit back, saying: "Jordi Pujol, is he responsible for this club?" But the Catalan media clearly sympathises with its president.

Barcelona-based sports paper Sport said: "The exquisite delicacy with which Pujol expressed his disappointment with the sporting politics of Barcelona was met with a disproportionate reply by Van Gaal."

"Van Gaal's aggressive tone reflects his well-known intolerance and has again offered a detestable, haughty and defiant image, but this time in respect of the president (of Catalonia)."

Sport published a survey in which 71% of Barca fans said they wanted more Catalan players at the Nou Camp. While 74.4% thought the foreign players were not of high enough standard, 63.2% claimed the club had lost part of its identity. And 77% questioned Van Gaal's sincerity — last year he pledged to win the Champions' League with a mainly Catalan side.

The football club's president Jose Luis Nunez said, when he paraded the De Boer twins, that he had no misgivings about the large Dutch contingent at the club.

"Dressing room unity is better with eight Dutchmen than with one Bulgarian, two Romanians, two Czechs, four Argentinians and a Brazilian."

He pointed out that Barcelona once fielded eight Basques and said: "I would like to have a poll to see if people preferred having

eight Basques, a Bulgarian and someone from Aragon (a Spanish region) or the current situation."

Barca has long been seen as a symbol of the aspirations of the Catalan people and during the dictatorship of General Franco, widely seen as a symbol of Spanish colonialism, its importance to the people was encapsulated in the slogan "Mas que un club" or "More than a club."

However, Barca vice-President Jaume Sobreques cast a new light on the Dutch policy said that the players would be popular because "the club had chased the Spanish out of Holland in the 17th century".

Goalkeeper Ruud Hesp, defenders Winston Bogarde and Michael Reiziger, midfielders Boudewijn Zenden and Phillip Cocu and striker Patrick Kluivert are the other Dutch players at Barcelona.

Away fans will not be allowed into NEC Nijmegen's stadium for three of the first division club's remaining seven home games this season.

Terraces behind the goals that are set aside for visiting fans will be under reconstruction until September 17, effectively closing them for three games at the end of the season.

This means fans of Vitesse Arnhem, Utrecht and Feyenoord will be barred from the stadium. "For security reasons we cannot allow the supporters of visiting teams to be mixed in with the home supporters," an NEC spokeswoman said.



Jordi Pujol meets Barca coach Louis Van Gaal. The two are at the centre of a media battle over the type of players playing for Barcelona.

EUROPE

FRENCH CUP SHOCKS A REAL DISASTER!

Five times winners Monaco had two players sent off and went out of the French Cup first round 5-4 on penalties to second division strugglers Amiens on Saturday.

Monaco were the sixth top flight side eliminated, although 1996 winners AJ Auxerre went out 2-0 in an all-first division clash at record 10 times winners Olympique Marseille.

Toulouse bowed to fifth division amateurs Jura Sud Foot from the Alpine region 8-7 on penalties following a 1-1 draw after extra time.

Amiens goalkeeper Julien Lachuer saved from debutant Oli Courville, a junior playing because of a Monaco sickbay full of defenders, after the teams had finished 1-1 after extra time.

Striker Xavier Chaler put Amiens, 17th in division two, in front in the sixth minute and former French international midfielder Sabri Lamouchi equalised with a 25-metre drive 10 minutes later.

In the 26th minute, Monaco midfielder Sylvain Legwinski fouled Chaler in the box and was sent off following an earlier yellow card.

Monaco's reserve goalkeeper Jean-Marie Aubry, standing in for the injured Fabien Barthez, saved the penalty taken by David Francois.

Lamouchi was dismissed in the 59th minute for a second bookable offence.

Florian Maurice opened Marseille's scoring with a penalty in the 26th minute following a push on Christophe Dugarry and Fabrizio Ravanelli headed the second in the 39th.

Jura Sud's hero was goalkeeper Roland Nicod, who converted his team's 11th spot kick in a marathon shootout and then saved Toulouse's, taken by his opposite number Philippe Schueth. Metz, routed 6-0 in a league match in Bordeaux recently, exacted sweet revenge on Sunday by beating Girondins Bordeaux, second in the first division, 1-0 with a 44th minute goal.



Hey, it's cool... Auxerre's keeper Fabien Cool with Olympique Marseille's Fab Ravanelli.

by Belgian midfielder Danny Boffin.

Bordeaux, deprived of several key players through suspension, threw everything into attack in the second half but found goalkeeper Lionel Letizi in inspired form.

UEFA Cup quarterfinalists Olympique Lyon also went down 1-0 on Sunday to second division Chateauroux, Lilian Compan scoring in the 26th minute, and fourth division amateurs Dijon beat Bastia 2-1.

Leading transfers to date of players to and from French clubs during the festive season:

From France: Thierry Henry, winger, Monaco to Juventus; Patrick Colleter, defender, Olympique Marseille to Southampton; Louis Saha, midfielder, Metz to Newcastle United; Didier Domi, defender, PSG to Newcastle United; Mohamed Konje, defender, Monaco to Coventry City; Laurent Viaud, midfielder, Rennes to Extremadura.

Into France: Pedro Reyes, defender, Colo Colo to AJ Auxerre; Mikael Madar, striker, Everton to PSG; Jean-Guy Wallemme, defender, Coventry to Sochaux; Christophe Horlaville, striker, Port Vale to Metz; Tchiressoua Guel, midfielder, ASEC Abidjan to Marseille; Edson, defender, Sport Recife to Marseille.

In France: Stephane Cassard, goalkeeper, Le Havre to Montpellier; Xavier Meride, defender, RC Lens to Toulouse on loan; Christophe Le Grix, midfielder, Metz to Lorient; Bruno Rodriguez, striker, Metz to Paris St Germain; Nicolas Laspalles, defender, PSG to RC Lens; Nicolas Ouedec, striker, PSG to Montpellier; Xavier Gravelaine, forward, Montpellier to PSG; Marc Zanolli, forward, Nancy to St-Etienne; Christophe Le Roux, forward, Nantes to Rennes; Mickael Marsiglia, defender, Cannes to Strasbourg.

Real Madrid tumbled to a 4-0 defeat at Deportivo Coruna on Sunday, missing their chance to join Barcelona and Celta Vigo at the top of the Spanish first division.

The European champions, needing three points to make it a three-way tie at the top, found themselves 3-0 down within 38 minutes as Fran Gonzalez, Turu Flores and Pauleta Recende all finished smartly to beat Bodo Illgner.

Despite an improved display in the second half, Guus Hiddink's team were still unable to find a way through and conceded a fourth on 71 minutes as Turu Flores stole in once again.

Earlier, Celta Vigo had missed their chance to put clear water between themselves and the chasing pack. They were beaten 2-1 by Atletico Madrid who had Stefano Torrisi and Juan Chamot sent off in the second half.

The result opened the door for Barcelona to overtake them on goal difference thanks to their fifth successive league win, a 3-1 success at home to Real Zaragoza.

With half the season gone Barcelona, for whom Rivaldo scored twice in the second half to wrap up victory, lead the table on 34 points, level with Celta.

Valencia are third following a hard-fought 1-0 win at Mallorca, while Atletico climb to fourth on the back of their frenetic victory at home to Celta.

Sacchi's side had looked to be cruising to victory over Celta — who had started the day as leaders — with goals 13 minutes into each half from Michele Serena and then Fernando Correa.

But the sending-off of Torrisi with 16 minutes to go gave Celta renewed hope and the Galicians began to pepper the Atletico goal.

The home side held out until five minutes from the end when Chamot was adjudged to have brought down Lubo Penev, lumbering forward on the right.

Chamot was given a red card and Penev got up to fire in the penalty to give Atletico an uncomfortable final five minutes.

Real Madrid's heavy defeat at Deportivo was the surprise of the day, Guus Hiddink's side turning in their worst display of an inconsistent season.

Deportivo's first came from a sweetly struck free kick just outside the area from Fran on 12 minutes.

Turu Flores scored the second 11 minutes later with an equally precise finish, this time just inside the box, and Portuguese striker Pauleta Recende put the result beyond doubt as he took advantage of hesitation in the Real defence, sliding in to guide the ball past Bodo Illgner and in off the post.

Turu Flores completed a miserable night for Madrid, reacting first to a loose ball and netting his second.

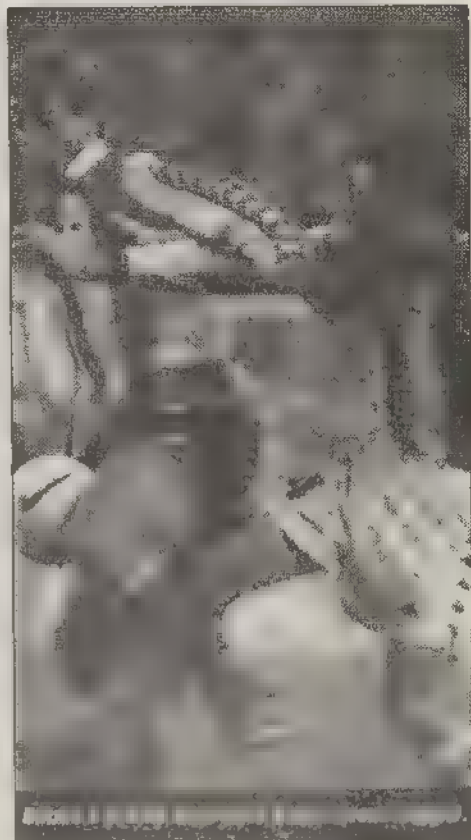
In the day's other late game Tenerife snatched a 1-0 win at home to Salamanca to climb off the bottom of the table.

A tight defensive display by Real Betis saw them hold on for a goalless draw in a grab clash with Athletic Bilbao.

Javier Clemente's side, who were missing discarded Brazilian Denilson and former Ajax winger Finidi George, made their defensive intentions clear from the start, packing the midfield and rarely looking to venture forward.

And their safety-first policy saw them clinch the point they came for as in-form Athletic found no way through.

The closest either side came to breaking the deadlock was on 20 minutes, when a bout of nerves from Betis keeper Joaquin Valerio, preferred to regular number



one Toni Prats, almost gifted the home side the lead.

Valerio, attempting to beat away a cross drifting in from the left, succeeded only in deflecting the ball onto the crossbar.

Julen Guerrero reacted first to the loose ball but Valerio managed to recover in time to block his goal-bound header.

Valerio was forced to make way for Prats five minutes later after picking up a thigh strain and thereafter the Betis defence looked a lot more secure.

As Athletic tired, Betis had marginally the better of the second half, with Oli Perez twice going close with snap shots.

But the game always seemed to be heading for a draw and a 35,000 crowd whistled both sides off the field at the end.

And in other Spanish news, Real Zaragoza's Vladislav Radimov has signed a one-year contract with Dynamo Moscow, Russian newspaper Sports-Express reported.

The 22-year-old Russian international midfielder, who recently lost his spot on the national squad, was not happy with his time at Zaragoza after playing only a handful of games in more than two years at the Spanish club.

Barcelona defender Michael Reiziger will undergo surgery on an injured knee in the Netherlands, the Spanish club said on Friday.

Reiziger is expected to be out for around two months.

Better injury news for Barcelona is the continued improvement of Winston Bogarde, another Dutch defender who has been out since the World Cup in France.

Bogarde came through a tough training session with his Barcelona team-mates last week and could be back in contention for a place by February.

CLUB BRUGES LOSES

Belgium's champions and league leaders Club Brugge went down 2-1 against lowly Lommel, while Anderlecht maintained their good run and moved up to fourth place by beating Westerlo 3-2 after being two goals down.

Bruges were outplayed by 15th placed Lommel, who also beat Eric Gerets' side earlier in the season.

Goals midway through each half by Dieter Dekelver and Robert Eshun were enough to see off the champions. Bruges could manage only a late consolation goal through Khalilou Fadiga.

Second-placed Genk could go top if they win at Standard Liege tomorrow night (Wed).

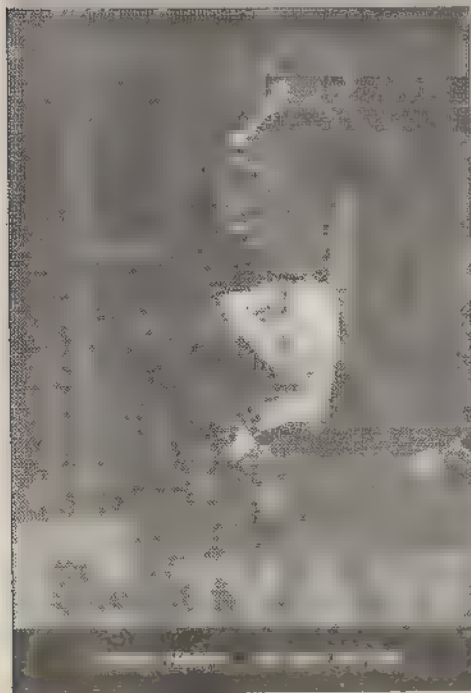
Anderlecht fought back in dramatic fashion after

trailing to a double strike from Westerlo's Dejan Mitrovic.

Avenging a 6-0 drubbing earlier this season, the Brussels side replied through Anastassiou and a brace from Tomasz Radzinski, the winner coming just four minutes from the end after Lorenzo Staelens had a penalty parried. Earlier, midfield veteran Enzo Scifo also missed a spot kick.

Third-placed Lokeren were in danger of throwing away a 3-0 lead but held on to beat troubled Beveren 4-3 with a late winner from the league's leading goalscorer Jan Koeller.

Lierse trounced 10-man Charleroi 4-0 in revenge for a 5-0 thrashing by the same opponents late last year.



UK

ENGLAND TO PLAY IN BUDAPEST AND SIGN SPONSOR

England will play Hungary in Budapest on April 28 in a warm-up game for their European championship qualifying clash with Bulgaria on June 9.

"There were a couple of options," said England coach Glenn Hoddle. "A lot of people wanted to play us at Wembley but I felt we needed to get some experience away from home. It will be ideal preparation, especially for the younger players."

Hungary will use the game to prepare for their visit to Romania on June 5 and home game against Slovakia four days later — both Euro 2000 qualifiers.

Hungary have not beaten England since the 1962 World Cup, with England winning nine of the 10 matches played since then. The Hungarians have not scored in the last seven meetings, with their last goal coming in a 3-1 World Cup qualifying defeat in 1981.

The two countries last met in May 1996 when England won 3-0 in a friendly at Wembley with two goals from Darren Anderton and one from David Platt.

Further, the friendly against world champions France at Wembley on February 10 is a sell-out.

Hoddle, who watched France beat Morocco 1-0 in Marseille, said the prestige showdown, England's first international of 1999, would have an extra edge and would be invaluable preparation for the subsequent visits of Poland and Sweden in the European championship qualifiers.

"We finished the year with a good result against the Czech Republic (2-0) and, if we could do well against France it would give us a major lift going into the matches against Poland and Sweden," Hoddle added.

"I pushed for the game against France and as soon as I offered it to them they came back and said they wanted to play us at all levels. It shows the pull that English football still has."

Meanwhile England's six-month search for a new sponsor came to an end when the Football Association announced a £20million tie-up with building society Nationwide.

Glenn Hoddle's team have been without an official backer since Green Flag's £4m four-year contract ran out last summer.

As well as Team England, the FA's marketing name for the England set-up, Nationwide will cover national teams from schoolboy to under 21 level.

The deal also gives the building society exclusive exposure during television coverage of any England international.

Carlton Palmer's immediate advice to Forest after his £1.1million signing was: "Keep Ron Atkinson as manager, whatever happens this season."

Atkinson has a £200,000 commission to keep Forest in the Premiership, with no guarantees about his future at the City Ground if he fails to pull off the 16-match miracle.

But, as Palmer signed for the current campaign and another three seasons, the 33-year-old former England midfielder made it clear he hopes Forest will stay with Big Ron even if they are relegated.

Palmer said: "I will be doing my best to help keep Forest up but, if the worst happens, the best thing they can do is keep Ron Atkinson around. He could do the job for them if they have to fight their way back."

Perhaps they could bring in someone like Stuart Pearce, who was so popular with the fans when he was playing here. He would be able to learn the managerial trade from Ron and take it on from him in, say, 18 months."

Palmer and Atkinson go back a long way. Atkinson was the West Bromwich Albion manager who gave the gangly footballer his big break and they also worked together at Sheffield Wednesday.

"Ron and I have always got on well because we think

the same way," said Palmer. "He brought me up to share his ideas and we are similar, outgoing characters. Having said that, I am sure we will have big bust-ups. We did at Wednesday and West Brom but I respect him because I like the way he goes about his life and business. People are presented with a certain image of Ron Atkinson but, first and foremost, he is a genuine guy who treats others how he wants to be treated himself. His enthusiasm for the game is enormous and I am sure Forest players will come to appreciate that very soon."

"I came to Forest not purely because Atkinson is manager but because I feel I can do a job here and the deal was right for me."

Atkinson has no immediate plans to make Palmer the new captain but said: "Carlton has a captain's temperament. He is a strong personality and I like to have a dressing room full of players with an attitude like his."

People talk about his enormous energy but he also has tremendous ability."

"I expect to have more up and downs with him than

any other player in the dressing room but I'll put up with that because he doesn't like to be beaten."

"People like that tend to be outspoken but I would rather have that than a bunch of shrinking violets."

Atkinson is set to link up with another old boy in Guy Whittingham, Sheffield Wednesday's 34-year-old striker. Whittingham, who played a key role when Atkinson saved Wednesday from relegation last season and has just completed a loan spell at Wolves, would cost around £200,000.

Forest agreed a £200,000 golden handshake for former boss Dave Bassett.

Bassett had 18 months left on his City Ground deal when he was sacked earlier this month after a record 17 Premiership games without a win and the FA Cup third round defeat by Portsmouth.

He called in League Managers' Association chief John Barnwell to help arrange the pay-off with Forest director of football Irving Scholar.

Barnwell said: "Dave's dismissal could not have been much worse but they have redeemed themselves with our negotiations."

JANSEN CRITICISES EL TELL

Matt Jansen pointed an accusing finger at Terry Venables after becoming the latest addition to Blackburn's pool of strikers.

The former Crystal Palace manager had accused Jansen of going on strike by refusing to play in the club's last two matches because he was unsettled by speculation about his future.

But the 21-year-old striker insisted, after completing a £4.1million move to Ewood Park, that he had never wanted to leave and accused the former England coach of being economical with the truth.

Jansen said: "The truth is that the club pulled me out at Bolton just over a week ago because they said I wouldn't be in the right frame of mind. I asked the manager if I would be in the side and he made it clear that I wouldn't be. I left it with him and he decided I wouldn't be right."

"I was hurt by his version of events and it was frustrating because most of it wasn't true. There have been lots of rumours flying about that I had gone on strike, but that was never the case."

"It came out that it was all my fault. I had enjoyed a good rapport with the Palace fans and they didn't know what the truth was until they spoke to me."

"The crux of the matter is that they had to sell me for financial reasons. I didn't particularly want to leave. I had always got on very well with the manager. He was a great coach but there are lots of problems behind the scenes at the club."

Blackburn manager Brian Kidd fought off a rival bid from Newcastle as well as 11th-hour offers from Arsenal and West Ham to clinch the England Under 21 striker's signature on a six-year contract worth £1m a year.

Blackburn coach Tony Parkes said: "People will talk about the fact that we have six strikers but they are not all Brian Kidd's signings. Matt is and that will help him in terms of being in the team."

Jansen turned down a move to Manchester United after a short trial at Old Trafford to join Palace in a £1m deal from Carlisle last February. A naturally left-sided player, he insisted he was not unduly worried by the fearsome competition for strikers' places at Ewood Park.

He said: "I've got confidence in my own ability. The competition is good for the club but it never put me off signing. When I spent a week on trial at Manchester United I got to know Brian Kidd. He was a great coach and I got on well with him, but Palace sold themselves to me and I knew there would be greater first-team opportunities at Selhurst Park."

"Unfortunately, the club are going through a really hard time. Blackburn have impressed me with their ambition and I'm looking forward to playing in the Premiership."



"Venables was a great coach but there are problems behind scenes," says departed Palace striker Matt Jansen.

SPURS SHOW UP GERMAN FEDERATION

Alan Sugar has stunned Jurgen Klinsmann by giving him the chance to say his football farewell at White Hart Lane for free.

The Tottenham chairman has offered to stage Klinsmann's last ever game, a charity match between Germany and a World XI, at Spurs' ground after the star was sensationally snubbed by his own FA.

Sugar stepped in after he heard Klinsmann's plans had been blocked by the German Football Federation (DFB) despite his record with them as captain when he led them to success in the 1996 European Championships.

Klinsmann, who announced his retirement last week, was left fuming when the DFB informed him of their decision through a third party.

He was told the only player to be promised a testimonial game was his old team-mate Lothar Matthaus, with whom he had a long running dispute at Bayern Munich.

But Sugar then amazed Klinsmann and his advisers with the offer especially as the pair fell out acrimoniously during the striker's spells at White Hart Lane.

The former Spurs star, speaking from his home in California, said: "I am overwhelmed by the offer from Alan and the other Spurs directors of using the ground. I still feel a great affinity with the fans in England and the Spurs fans in particular, who were the best I ever played for."

"Many of the greatest experiences in my career were in London, where I was very happy and I am certain that the welcome would be fantastic. However, I have not decided when to do the testimonial and where."

"The reaction of the German Federation left me speechless. It is not so much the fact they don't want to do it but the way they went about it. The president couldn't even call me up directly to tell me, I had to find out through a third party."

Sugar and Klinsmann fell out when the German first left Spurs three years ago after the chairman accused him of reneging on a promise to stay for two years. The Spurs chairman said he would not wash his car with the player's signed shirt.

However, Sugar turned again to the charismatic striker last season to save the club from relegation and his nine goals in less than half a season kept Spurs up.

Scottish F.A. chief executive Jim Farry is under fire, this time from Celtic owner Fergus McCann.

McCann, influential chairman of the Scottish champions, is furious with Farry for what he claims to be lack of support in the Viduka transfer saga.

Last week, Farry said Celtic must pay three million pounds (\$5 million) to Croatia Zagreb for Viduka even though the player has not yet appeared for the club and walked out on Celtic just three days after joining them two months ago.

The situation has yet to be resolved although Celtic insist they will not hand over any money for the player in the foreseeable future.

On Thursday, McCann accused Farry of "holding back Scottish football."

Celtic have complained to the Scottish F.A. (SFA) about Farry and it has been widely reported that the rest of the Scottish Premier League (SPL) clubs also want the SFA chief to quit.

The SPL holds its first annual meeting later on Thursday and McCann gave a hint of its feelings in an interview in the Daily Record newspaper.

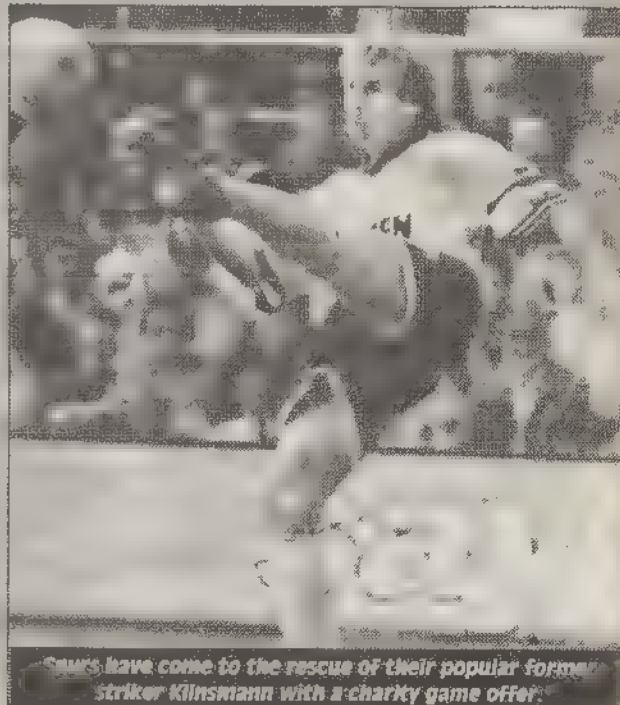
"The last thing we need is someone like Jim Farry. We have made a lot of progress in the last few years, but it has been in spite of the SFA rather than because of it, he was quoted as saying."

"But when Jim Farry makes comments which damages our business then it gets serious."

"We won't put up with that and it is a wrong which has to be righted. Your association is supposed to help you but his statement made things harder for us and he can't get away with it."

There was no immediate comment by the SFA.

Earlier this week, Farry was reprimanded by the SFA's finance committee.



Spurs have come to the rescue of their popular former striker Klinsmann with a charity game offer.

tee. In 1997, he made headlines when he insisted that a Scottish international match should be played on the day of Princess Diana's funeral.

After widespread public condemnation throughout Britain the match, against Belarus, was eventually postponed.

UK

FERGIE'S ALL-SINGING ALL-DANCING TESTIMONIAL

Could this be the testimonial of the future? A host of blue-chip companies and well-off supporters being offered 'corporate packages' to be part of the event.

Corporate hospitality packages including tickets to a Manchester United v Rest of the World XI at Old Trafford, a concert by Simply Red, a pro-am golf day, a race day at Haydock Park and a host of other social events are on offer at up to £100,000 a time.

An estimated 500 companies have been sent details of the extravagant packages, which have been divided into silver, gold and platinum deals, offering VIP treatment at all the events.

The £12,000 silver package includes 20 tickets to the all-star match, featuring former United star Eric Cantona, 20 concert tickets, the chance to meet Ferguson, a parking pass and two tickets to the race day. The more lucrative gold package, which costs £20,000, offers 40 tickets to the match on August 6, 40 concert tickets, four tickets to the race day on July 11 and a champagne lunch. Top of the range, at a staggering £100,000, is the platinum offer, which includes two advertising boards at the match, the right to use the Alex Ferguson Tribute logo for advertising and 200 tickets to the match.

The optimum package also includes two places in the July 5 pro-am golf day, introductions to the likes of Tiger Woods and Mark O'Meara, 10 parking passes and 200 tickets to the August 20 pop concert at Haydock Park.

Jonathan Bodansky, whose sponsorship company devised the corporate deals, said there had already been a good response.

"There is huge interest in Alex Ferguson and a lot of people feel he deserves such a testimonial after all that he has given to football over the years." The reason for these different packages is the recognition that they will create a bigger pot of money for all those involved.

"If people think that Alex Ferguson already has enough money, then they don't have to participate. It's as simple as that. But charities are also going to benefit and, with the different packages on offer, we feel there is a great opportunity to significantly raise income from the event.

"We are simply helping to maximise the revenue potential with our involvement. That is our role. If we were to sell a handful of the platinum packages and possibly 20 or 30 of the others, then we would be very excited indeed."

Proceeds will be split between Ferguson and two designated charities, one of which is the Elizabeth Hardie Ferguson Fund — the charity trust set up in memory of his mother. The other has yet to be confirmed.

United's long-time sponsor, Sharp, has been given the first opportunity to purchase the packages, which will then be offered to Old Trafford box-holders and high-profile companies within the north-west.

It is understood that 57-year-old Ferguson, whose annual salary is in the region of £800,000, is set to reap about £1.5m from the events. The golf day, race day and pop concert are all set to receive national television coverage, which will further enhance the potential revenue for Ferguson and the good causes involved.

'CRAZY' CRAIG WILSON'S UK



Welcome to the
Crazy Craig
Wilson column.
Flying the flag
for the UK
nation.

West Ham manager Harry Redknapp has been telling the English newspapers about life with the foreign legion. At the start of this season Harry's Hammers featured an Israeli, two Aussies, a Frenchman, a Nigerian, and an American.

He has since signed a Chilean, and hasn't lost his nerve despite some colourful experiences over the past two or three years.

"Right from the start his attitude stank" says Redknapp of Marco Boogers, his Hammer from Holland. "He was at the back whenever we went for a run, and didn't fancy the physical side. In his first game against Man. Utd., he only got one kick. Unfortunately it was halfway up Gary Neville's leg and got him sent off".

A shadow of doubt must lie over Harry's code of discipline. Romanian

Florin Raducioiu failed to turn up for a Cup-tie at Stockport one Saturday. A quick call to his mobile found him shopping on Oxford Street with his missus.

Redknapp took Portuguese pretty boy Dani, now at Ajax, on a pre-season trip to Tenerife. He was threatened with a fine for staying out late or drinking. Next morning he failed to make an appearance at training, and showed up mid-afternoon to be fined £1000. "Thanks coach!" Dani smiled. "Must've been a bloody good night if it was worth a grand," says Redknapp.



An unconfirmed pic of Barrow's
Slovakian gypsies.

If you've been wondering about Barrow's strange loss of form in the Vauxhall Conference, 'Give Em Beans', the club's fanzine, has come up with a novel explanation.

The story goes that back in the mists of time, when Barrow were still a Football League side, the Directors decided to build a brand spanking new restaurant and leisure centre on a site behind the Steelworks End. Matters were complicated however by a group of Slovakian gypsies who were camped on the site awaiting asylum paperwork from the Home Office.

The club applied to the courts and had an eviction notice served.

The Slovaks refused to move on, there were scuffles, and the Police were called.

The ejection was violent but successful. However, as the Gypsies were loading their few belongings into a tatty old Ford Cortina, the leader of the group turned to the large crowd which had gathered and spat on the ground. Lifting his head and wiping the saliva from his long gray beard, he shouted "I curse thee AFC. For ever and ever. And a

day". The next year Barrow were relegated and to this day the Leisure Centre and restaurant have never been built.

The good news is "the curse can be broken," says the fanzine. "Barrow must win the FA Cup and bring it back on the last day of May when the moon is full.

The Cup is to be filled with evil smelling Bovril from the spack bar on the Popular Side and the Gypsy King must be made to drink it as the Town Hall clock strikes the midnight hour". Thank goodness someone's come up with a rational explanation!

An entrepreneurial undertaker in Middlesbrough is offering footy flavoured funerals for former fans. For as little as £2500 you can lay a loved one to rest dressed in a football scarf and beany, or a full soccer outfit with shin-pads and boots.

The box lining can be coloured to suit, as can the casket itself. For an extra £250 a crest can be inlaid on the lid in brass or pewter.

Other options include playing the club song at the burial ceremony, and for the cremated, sprinkling the ashes in the centre circle. "We can also supply a supporters choir singing 'You'll Never Walk Alone'" said a spokesperson for the Teeside-based Funeral Directors.

A recent report of a woman who buried her two-timing Newcastle supporting husband in Sunderland colours was not substantiated at the time of going to press.



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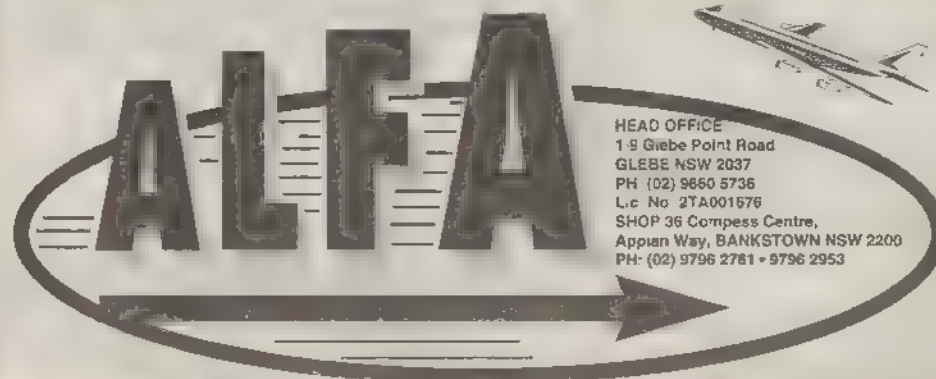


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UK

Soccer Weekly

BORO AND JUNINHO STILL A CHANCE

Middlesbrough, keen to re-sign its former midfielder Juninho, is set to invoke its right to a "first option" on the player to stop the Brazilian from joining rivals Aston Villa.

Villa has opened official talks with Atletico Madrid with manager John Gregory confirming late last week that a delegation from the Spanish club flew to Birmingham on Thursday to start negotiations over a 10 million pounds plus deal with Villa chairman Doug Ellis.

But Middlesbrough reacted swiftly, seeking clarification of its legal rights to re-sign the player if he should become available.

Juninho, who will be 26 next month, played for Boro for two seasons from November 1995 to May 1997 before leaving for Atletico.

As part of the 12.5 million pounds deal that took him to Spain, Middlesbrough retained first option to re-sign him should he become available again.

A club spokesman confirmed the development on Friday.

"We do have first option ... that is well known," he said, "and we have spoken to Atletico about the player. They have promised to keep us informed on any developments."

Apart from that, everything else is speculation.

With Juninho's agent, his father Oswaldo, currently in Brazil, there is unlikely to be any imminent move but Boro fans would welcome him back with open arms.

Worthington Cup Semi-Finals Draw

Sunderland v Leicester City;
Tottenham Hotspur v Wimbledon

First legs to be played this week.
Second legs to be played in week
beginning February 15 1999

He became their hero during his two years in the north-east and although he could not prevent Middlesbrough from being relegated at the end of the 1996-97 season, they regained their premier league place this season and are currently ninth in the table and in the hunt for a UEFA Cup place next season.

Villa manager Gregory only confirmed for the first time that his club were actively seeking to sign the player saying that Thursday's talks might have "advanced the situation a little further."

"I had a busy day and can confirm that I met some people. But there is nothing else I can add at the moment," he said.

"I am trying to sidestep the issue while we prepare for our F.A. Cup tie with Fulham."

Perhaps this issue did affect the Villa team; they were consequently dumped from the FA Cup by Kevin Keegan's Fulham (details next page).

Villa were hoping to complete the deal in time for Juninho to make his debut in this Saturday's premier league game at Newcastle.

Martin O'Neill has accused Premiership referees of becoming paranoid about managers straying towards the touch-line.

Meanwhile, Coventry's Gordon Strachan is waiting to hear whether the FA is to charge him with misconduct following a pitchside fracas at Stamford Bridge that resulted in him and Chelsea kit man Aaron Lincoln being sent off by referee Jeff Winter.



Juninho ... although he has stated he is happy in Spain, the Boro and Villa rumours continue.

O'Neill said: "I don't know who will expend more energy on the touchline — Gordon or myself — but it will be a close-run thing. I think referees and linesmen are getting a bit paranoid at the moment because if they see a manager getting animated they seem to think he's causing concern all over the place."

"Anyone would think we're trying to incite a riot but they've got to realise that this is a game full of passion and there are times when you don't realise what you are doing."

"I've even had a linesman telling me this season to stop shouting instructions to my players — and I was standing in my technical area at the time."

Manchester United hit Leicester for six at Filbert Street and O'Neill asked: "What was I supposed to do? Watch United put six past us and not worry?"

"Referees would like everything to be easy and calm on match days but now they're stopping play to reprimand managers for putting a foot outside the area."

"Some managers have a detached view of things by sitting up in the stand but that's not the case for the majority like myself. I notice that even guys like Arsene Wenger are beginning to show some emotion on the touchline."

Strachan's worried parents asked him to undergo a medical check-up, worried that he was overstressed.

O'Neill is watched by his wife on television

English F.A. Cup fourth round replay dates:

Tuesday, February 2
Tottenham v Wimbledon

Wednesday, February 3
Huddersfield v Wrexham

but he laughs: "She switches the set off if the cameras are homing in on me on the touchline."

John Barnwell, chief executive of the League Managers' Association, is seeking urgent talks with the Premier League referees.

He said: "There is confusion about the touchline situation and that also involves the number of people now sitting in the dugout when it's supposed to be limited to just eight."

WALKER'S WALKING ON AYR WHILE RANGERS 'CHEAT FANS'

Former Celtic striker Andy Walker lived up to his reputation as a big-match specialist with two goals which enabled Ayr United to knock Kilmarnock out of the Scottish Cup.

Walker netted two late penalties in the first division team's 3-0 third round win over the 1997 winners, who were just one of three Premier League teams to fall to lower division opposition.

Aberdeen went down at home to second division leaders Livingston, who won 1-0 thanks to a goal from former Scotland international John Robertson, while Dundee lost 2-1 at first division strugglers Greenock Morton.

Cup favourites Rangers ensured there was no fairytale for little Stenhousemuir with a 2-0 win at Ibrox, while Celtic overcame Airdrie 3-1 at Parkhead.

However, it was a Celtic old boy Walker who grabbed the spotlight as Ayr repeated their cup success of last season over local rivals Kilmarnock at Somerset Park.

Then, Kilmarnock were cup holders. Now, they are Rangers' main challengers for the championship, lying in second place in the Premier League.

A 30th-minute goal from Andy Lyons was the launchpad for Ayr, but then Walker struck two penalties in two minutes as Kilmarnock chased the game.

Kilmarnock captain Ray Montgomerie was sent off for conceding the first and Walker cheekily chipped the second over diving goalkeeper Gordon Marshall.

Walker, who won the Scottish Cup three times with Celtic and scored the goal for Bolton which knocked Liverpool out of the English F.A. Cup in 1993, said: "This was a marvellous result for

us. I know the second penalty was cheeky, but by then the game was won."

John Robertson won the Scottish Cup with Hearts last May, and the 35-year-old striker continued in that vein for Livingston with the 62nd-minute winner at Aberdeen.

"This can't compare with winning the cup, because that was an 18-year saga for me and Hearts, but this result proves the club's ambitions of going higher are genuine," Robertson said.

Livingston, who are based 25km outside Edinburgh, were formerly known as Meadowbank Thistle and played in front of just 200 fans in Edinburgh's Commonwealth Games athletics stadium until relocating two years ago.

Rangers feared they might be heading for a shock too, when Stenhousemuir's Adrian Sprott, whose goal gave Hamilton a famous cup scalp at Ibrox in 1987, hit the post in the third minute, but French striker Stephane Guivarc'h scored for Rangers a minute later and Rod Wallace's 38th minute goal sealed victory.

Third division Stenhousemuir happily banked a cheque for 200,000 pounds from the tie, but Rangers coach Dick Advocaat was unhappy with his own big-money stars, declaring: "Not one Rangers player played well. They are paid good money but they cheated our fans."

Celtic ensured first division Airdrie did not repeat their League Cup victory of earlier in the season, thanks to goals from Henrik Larsson in the third minute, an own goal by Sandy Stewart (49) and one from Phil O'Donnell (52).

Dundee, however, sank at Greenock Morton, for whom former Celtic player Owen Archdeacon (30) and Ross Mathieson (38) scored.

COVENTRY TO GET NEW STADIUM FOR 2006 BID

Coventry have been given the green light to proceed with plans to build a new 45,000-seater stadium.

The British government announced that no public inquiry would be held into the club's application to construct the 120 million-pound stadium, which has been backed by the local city council.

The new venue, complete with retractable roof and sliding pitch, will be one of the most technically advanced in Europe and is part of England's bid for the 2006 World Cup.

Rangers striker Marco Negri has joined Vicenza on loan. Rangers confirmed that Negri will spend the rest of the season with the struggling Italian first division side, with an option for a permanent, 2.5 million pounds transfer in the summer.

Negri scored 15 goals for Perugia in the 1996-97 serie A season to earn a 3.5 million pounds (\$5.78 million) move to the Rangers. He also scored 36 goals in his first season in Scotland but has not played this term because of a dispute.

Rangers coach Dick Advocaat said on Scottish Television: "We tried hard to keep him here but his mind was made up that he wanted to go elsewhere."

Celtic finally ended its two-month conflict with striker Mark Viduka on Friday, saying he would be joining the, now seven weeks after his transfer from Croatia Zagreb.

The Scottish champion said Viduka, who fled Glasgow

just days after his three million pound move in December, claiming he was "depressed," had now assured the club he was ready to play for it.

"Marko has informed Celtic that he is fit, well and committed to being a Celtic player for the next four years and we look forward to his contribution on the pitch," the club said in a statement.

The Socceroo reportedly has spent the last 10 days in a London hotel as Celtic, which had refused to pay any money to Croatia Zagreb, sought guarantees from the player's agents about his return to the club.

Viduka returned to Zagreb after just one training session with Celtic following his transfer on Dec. 3 and then spent another five weeks in his native Melbourne.

The former Melbourne Knight had an agreement with Croatia Zagreb that he would receive half of any fee, but Celtic — wary of being stung again — wanted the player's money spread over the term of his contract.

Celtic refused to divulge the outcome of those negotiations. "The contractual position is detailed, however, we will act to ensure every party receives what they are due from the deal," the club said.

Viduka said: "I have made a complete recovery from my illness and I want to get back to playing football. I want to do my best and put the last seven weeks behind me."

Has the Soccer world heard the last of this seemingly intractable dispute, or will it have a happy ending with Viduka scoring the winner for Celtic against Rangers, thus giving the Green and Whites the league?

TRANSFER UPDATE

Player	From	To	Cost
Mohammed Konjic	Monaco	Coventry	£2m
Scott Minto	Benfica	West Ham	£1m
Gary Charles	Aston Villa	Benfica	£1m
Havard Flo	Werder Bremen	Wolves	£750,000
Marcus Bent	Crystal Palace	Port Vale	£375,000
Adrian Bakalli	RWD Molenbeek	Watford	£100,000
Andy Gurney	Torquay	Reading	£100,000
Andy Goram	Sheffield United	Motherwell	Undisclosed

Compiled by and written by

Daryl Katz

UK

English FA Cup highlights

VILLA V FULHAM

Kevin Keegan's Fulham produced their second giant killing act of the competition when they eliminated premier league title contenders Aston Villa from the FA Cup with a 2-0 victory at Villa Park on Saturday.

The result sees Fulham progress to the fifth round for the first time since 1975.

Keegan was delighted with his side, this latest success confirming the progress made since his appointment 18 months ago.

Despite missing strikers Stan Collymore and Dion Dublin, Villa would not have expected their second domestic home defeat of the season to come at the hands of Division Two opposition.

The Londoners, making their first appearance in the fourth round for 16 years, played with enthusiasm and flair. Simon Morgan, Steve Hayward and central defender Chris Coleman took the honours as Fulham progressed with two goals from set-pieces.

After just eight minutes, the persistence of Geoff Horsfield won a corner off Gareth Southgate. Hayward's resulting centre found Morgan rushing in to score with a brilliant glancing header into the far corner of the net.

The goal clearly rattled Villa, and while Julian Joachim provided isolated attempts on the visiting goal, the home side began to lose their way as The Cottagers grew in confidence.

The Londoners very nearly added to their lead when a Kit Symons header was prodded against the



Kevin Keegan ... the man has shown he still has it.

woodwork by Paul Peschisolido following another corner.

Yet Villa failed to learn from earlier mistakes. Gareth Barry impeded Wayne Collins a minute before the break, and Hayward hammered home Fulham's second goal following a wicked deflection from the resulting free kick.

After that it was some resolute defensive work by Fulham and Coleman in particular which kept Villa at bay. It enabled the Londoners to emerge with a memorable win and their second victory in a fortnight over premier league opposition.

SUMMARY OF NON PREMIER CLUBS

Bristol Rovers forced their way into the fifth round of the FA Cup for the first time in 20 years on Saturday when they scored three late goals to sent Leyton Orient tumbling out of the competition.

A brace of goals from Jason Roberts proved decisive after the match had seemed destined for a replay, Rovers struggling to come to terms with the direct Orient approach.

Both goals confused Orient goalkeeper Chris MacKenzie, the first beating him at the near post, the second rebounding from one post to the other before settling across the line.

David Lee, on loan from Chelsea, scored the third Rovers goal in a nine-minute spell of agony for the Londoners.

Orient were distraught after the match, feeling that they had contributed enough to the tie to deserve another opportunity.

At Oakwell, John Hendrie saw his Barnsley outfit advance at the expense of Bournemouth following their hard-earned 3-1 victory.

The first half was a forgettable affair, Barnsley opening the scoring in the 13th minute. Darren Sheridan, recalled in place of the suspended Scott Jones, rammed home a rebound after John Bailey had cleared off the line from Sean McClare.

Bournemouth set the nerves jangling by drawing level six minutes into the second-half through Eddie Howe, but a mistake by goalkeeper Mark Ovendale handed the initiative back to the home side.

Barnsley skipper Kevin Richardson was looking for Craig Hignett in the 65th minute but his low cross was left by Jamie Vincent and should have been meat and drink for Ovendale.

However, the Bournemouth goalkeeper somehow allowed the ball to squirm from his grasp and Hignett had the simple task of finding the unguarded net to make it 2-1.

Barnsley rounded off the victory two minutes from time with a third goal. Hignett, the game's outstanding player, created the chance and Bullock gratefully snapped it up with an assured side-foot finish.

The tie between Wrexham and Huddersfield heads for a replay following Saturday's 1-1 draw.

Karl Connolly gave Wrexham the lead on six minutes, and the Welshmen might have gone further ahead when Wayne Allison cleared off the line from a Brian Carey header.

Allison put Huddersfield level after 22 minutes in virtually their first attack of the match to earn the replay.

Wrexham boss Brian Flynn was confident after the match that his side could win the return following this spirited home display.

In one outstanding third round fixture, Sheffield United accounted for Nottingham County 4-3 in a cracking match to ensure their passage into the fourth round. They will meet Cardiff City to determine who progresses to the last 16.

BLACKBURN V SUNDERLAND

Brian Kidd saw his Blackburn Rovers side move into the fifth round of the FA Cup on Saturday following an unconvincing 1-0 victory over Division One pace-setters Sunderland at Ewood Park.

Blackburn produced a scrappy first half performance, looking nervous and lacking in confidence. Sunderland dominated possession throughout the dour match, forcing the home side back into their own half for long periods.

The final ball proved elusive however, despite the aerial dominance Niall Quinn up front. The visitors simply lacked the cutting edge required to trouble the Rovers back division and create clear goalscoring opportunities.

Injury-hit Rovers, playing with only one striker, seemed content to sit back and absorb the pressure, waiting to launch their own attacks on the break.

The first clear chance of the match came on 20 minutes as in-form Sunderland striker Kevin Phillips sent over a long floated ball from the left. Quinn beat Blackburn goalkeeper John Filan to the ball and his delicate volley looped just wide as the visiting side threatened to make the breakthrough.

The first meaningful Blackburn attack came on the half hour, courtesy of a surging run and cross from Damien Duff.

Rovers finally produced some urgency as the interval approached. A swift break saw Callum Davidson find Keith Gillespie in the Sunderland area, but the winger could only blaze wastefully over from close range after cutting in from the right.

A spell of sustained Rovers pressure followed, their best chance coming when Sunderland defender Paul Butler deflected the ball just wide of his own goal.

The quality of football improved in a more dramatic second half. Brian Kidd introduced an additional striker in the form of Nathan Blake, but the overall pattern of the game initially remained unchanged.

Quinn and Phillips both had opportunities as Sunderland raised the tempo in search of the vital opening goal. Ten minutes after the break, Lee Clark had the ball in the Rovers net, only to see the goal disallowed for offside.

Ashley Ward created the first Blackburn effort of the half on 60 minutes when he cut in from the left, leaving two defenders in his wake. He could not produce the finish however, firing the ball well over.

The Blackburn plight worsened a minute later when Jeff Kenna was dismissed for a second bookable offence following a rash challenge on Phillips.

Ten-man Rovers proved more effective though, and they took the lead against the run of play after 67 minutes.

Keith Gillespie set up Blake for a close range volley which Thomas Sorenson did well to keep out. When the rebound fell back into the path of Gillespie, the winger lashed an unstoppable shot into the top corner.

Sunderland took some time to recover their composure, but rallied once again in the closing minutes. Despite a late spell of desperate, sustained pressure, they could not find the equaliser to keep the tie alive.

Rovers progress to the next round despite a poor performance in which they largely lacked both ambition and urgency.

Meanwhile, Sunderland will take heart from a competitive performance, but manager Peter Reid will know that his side did not possess sufficient invention in the final third of the field.

MAN UTD V LIVERPOOL

As endings go this one was one of the most dramatic, with Man Utd breaking Liverpool hearts in a devastating final few moments of a tense and predictably hard fought Cup tie.

United manager Alex Ferguson claimed his side deserved their fourth-round success at Old Trafford after trailing to a third minute goal from Michael Owen.

Ferguson said: "We deserved what we got purely because we never gave in. We took risks to win the game and if you want to win you have to do that."

"Liverpool defended fantastically for most of the game but sheer determination got us through."

Ferguson also hailed substitute Solskjaer's finish for the winning goal after he outwitted goalkeeper David James to find the net two minutes into stoppage time.

"Ole looked at the far corner and the keeper bought it and he put the ball in at the near post. It was a superb finish. I need to give him more football," added Ferguson.

Liverpool's French manager Gerard Houllier said he was proud of his side despite their collapse in the final moments.

He said: "The game lasted five minutes too long for us. It was a real shame. I felt very proud of what they did despite the result. I told them there was nothing to be ashamed of."

Houllier said he was disappointed with referee Graham Poll's decision to award a free kick that led to United's equaliser.

"I think the free kick decision was dubious. I don't think Jamie Redknapp fouled Ronny

Johnsen. He tumbled over the ball," added the Frenchman.

"When you have a free kick against you and you feel it is an injustice you lose a precious few seconds arguing with the referee and not taking up your position."

The free kick proved the turning point. Until then, Liverpool were comfortably holding out after snatching the lead through Owen's close range header.

Poor defending by United allowed Patrik Berger and Redknapp to feed Vegard Heggem down the left flank and his measured cross was nodded past a bemused Peter Schmeichel.

From then on the visitors looked solid at the back but Roy Keane nearly breached their defences in the 22nd minute when he reached Yorke's far post cross and headed against a post.

The ball spun across the goalline and Paul Ince and James combined to clear the danger with the United players all claiming the ball had crossed the line.

Keane went close again with 10 minutes to go when he beat James with a low drive that came back off a post.

Just as the game, and another F.A. Cup campaign, looked over for United, they embarked on their remarkable comeback.

They equalised when Yorke poked the ball home from close range after Andy Cole had headed David Beckham's free kick back across the goal box.

Solskjaer grabbed the glory with a low drive past James after a tired Liverpool back line gave Paul Scholes too much space in the penalty area to set up the opportunity.



Compiled and written by

Daryl Katz

UK

English FA Cup highlights

PREMIER CLUBS CUP SUMMARY

David O'Leary saw his young Leeds United side produce another fine performance as they cruised through to the fifth round of the FA Cup with a 5-1 hammering of First Division Portsmouth.

Despite missing eight first choice players including David Batty and Lee Bowyer, Leeds proved far too strong.

After going behind to an early strike from teenager Luke Nightingale, the premiers side asserted their authority.

David Wetherall started the rout for Leeds when he equalised in the eleventh minute, rising unmarked at the far post to head home an Ian Harte centre. Six minutes later, Harte thundered home a left foot free-kick from 25 yards out, giving goalkeeper Alan Knight no chance.

Leeds applied continued pressure in the second half. Harry Kewell marked a fine performance when he scored with a left foot shot after 51 minutes, following a great piece of skill from Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink. Bruno Ribeiro grabbed the fourth after 73 minutes when his shot deflected off Adrian Whitbread.

Dutch striker Clyde Wijnand completed the scoring eight minutes from time.

Meanwhile, Derby County super-substitute Kevin Harper broke the brave Swansea resistance in an exciting cup tie at Vetch Field.

Harper overshadowed his expensive continental colleagues and came to the rescue when the Welshmen seemed about to add a further premiership scalp to their collection.

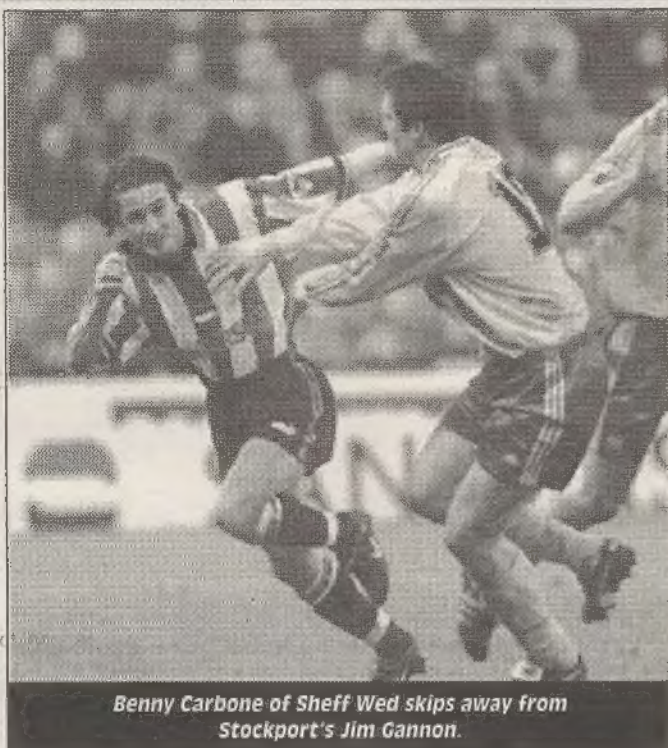
The rain swirled down but there was no dampening the spirit of a near capacity 11,500 crowd. On a treacherous surface Swansea swarmed forward at every opportunity as Derby struggled to settle in difficult conditions.

The introduction of Harper proved the difference and he forced Swansea goalkeeper Roger Freestone into three important saves after only five minutes of the second half.

Harper secured the vital goal just nine minutes from time. Lee Carsley's right-side free-kick found Horacio Carbonari, whose left foot pass was powered home by the flying Scot from point blank range at the far post.

Everton scored rare goal at Goodison Park as they forced their way into the next round at the expense of Ipswich Town.

Ipswich goalkeeper Richard Wright turned in a fine



Benny Carbone of Sheff Wed skips away from Stockport's Jim Gannon.

performance, beating out a Tony Grant 20-yard drive and a Don Hutchison bicycle kick in the opening fifteen minutes.

The Everton goal came six minutes before the break when a Hutchison cross from the left found the head of John Oster. His effort rebounded off the woodwork, but Nick Barmby fired home from two yards for his first home goal in 16 months.

Shortly after the restart, Michael Ball almost doubled Everton's tally, missing from one yard out after being set up by Danny Cadamarteri.

Three minutes into the second half, Everton had Marco Materazzi dismissed for a second bookable offence. Ipswich tried to make the extra man count but could not secure an equalising goal as Everton held out to ensure their passage into the last 16.

Sheffield Wednesday, inspired once again by their Italian striker Benito Carbone, easily accounted for Gary Megson's Stockport County at Hillsborough.

The opening goal came after 16 minutes when Wim Jonk tapped a short corner to Benito Carbone. He swivelled to send over a dangerous, curling cross and Brazilian centre back Emerson Thome rose to head home powerfully from eight yards.

Carbone sealed the win just before the hour when he ran onto a Jonk pass on the half-way line, took a few strides forward and produced a stunning shot from 35 yards which dipped under the bar.

There was more misery for Stockport in the 67th minute when Paul Cook was given his marching orders following an incident involving Jonk.

Coventry continued their recent good run with a comprehensive 3-0 victory over Leicester City at Filbert Street to book their place in the fifth round.

The Sky Blues saw midfielder George Boateng sent off on the stroke of half-time for a second bookable offence but by then they were already 1-0 up following a superb 16th minute finish by Noel Whelan.

Scottish international Matthew Elliott missed the target with a penalty attempt before the break, pulling the ball wide of Magnus Hedman's right-hand post.

After the restart it was a case of backs to the wall for Coventry but despite constant pressure by the home side they failed to make the breakthrough.

In the final minutes of play it looked as though Leicester might get their reward, but a goalmouth scramble saw five Leicester players failing to make contact with the loose ball.

From the resulting clearance Coventry broke forward in numbers and substitute Paul Telfer was on hand to fire high into the roof of the net past an exposed Kasey Keller.

Steve Froggatt sent the travelling supporters wild with a third goal, finishing calmly as Leicester were again caught on the break.

WIM'DON V SPURS

Wimbledon and Tottenham set up their fifth meeting within a month as they battled to a 1-1 draw in their FA Cup fourth round match at Selhurst Park.

In a pulsating cup tie, Wimbledon came close to opening the scoring early on when Neil Ardley found the upright from an acute angle. Carl Leaburn later saw his header cleared off the line by Justin Edinburgh.

Spurs had their chances as well, and on 40 minutes had the ball in the net when Steffen Iverson forced home a David Ginola cross only to see the goal disallowed for offside. Just before the interval, a 35-yard effort from Steve Carr was superbly saved by Wimbledon goalkeeper Neil Sullivan.

The second half proved as competitive as the first and on 55 minutes Ruel Fox desperately cleared for a corner as Leaburn set himself to strike. A minute later, Darren Anderton saw his fierce shot well kept out by Sullivan.

Just before the hour, Spurs appealed for a penalty following a challenge on Anderton by Dean Blackwell.

Wimbledon then took the lead however, following a spectacular overhead volley by Robbie Earle from a Michael Hughes pass.

Just ten minutes later, the enigmatic David Ginola



Ball-head ... Spurs' Carr up against the Don's Jason Euell.

equalised for Spurs with an outstanding strike from 20 yards.

The fiercely contested game was well handled by referee Dermot Gallagher, who might have dismissed Edinburgh in the dying minutes for a crashing tackle on Jason Euell.

NEWCASTLE V BRADFORD CITY



Alan Shearer doing what he does best, this time against Bradford in the Cup.

the edge of the Bradford penalty area.

Alan Shearer flicked the ball on to Temur Ketsbaia, who saw his initial shot blocked by Walsh. Hamann then stepped up to stroke the ball into an empty net.

Bradford started the second half in determined mood, but Shearer ended any hopes of a fightback with his second FA Cup goal of the season.

Ketsbaia put the England skipper through and following a strong run into the box, Shearer fired an unstoppable shot past Walsh.

Ketsbaia completed the scoring five minutes from time, breaking from midfield and beating Walsh with a cool finish.

Newcastle United, FA Cup finalists last season, ended any thoughts of a shock result at St James Park on Saturday with a convincing 3-0 victory over Division One form team Bradford City.

Paul Jewell brought his Bradford outfit to Tyneside on the back of an outstanding recent record. Strikers Lee Mills and Robbie Blake started quickly and clearly troubled Nikos Dabizas and Laurent Charvet at the heart of the home defence.

Newcastle stood firm in the face of the early pressure however, and fashioned their first chance of the match after 17 minutes. Nolberto Solano unleashed a furious drive from 25 yards, only to see City goalkeeper Gary Walsh tip the ball over the bar.

Bradford hit back as Blake fed Lawrence on the edge of the Newcastle box following an error by Dabizas. The City midfielder seemed certain to open the scoring before being forced wide by Shay Given.

The near miss seemed to spark the home side into action and German international Dietmar Hamann opened the scoring in the 33rd minute following some neat interplay on



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Next Week...
Alan Hunter & David Zdrilic